NPA guerrillas release 11 power firm workers

STORY ON PAGE A2

They fight with books

ETO ANG WAR NA LAHAT PANALO!

By Leila Salaverria

TWO Americans have been waging a 20-year war in the Philippines, staging invasions into some of the country's remotest areas. And they plan to go to Basilan, too.

THEY/A6

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Rescuers give up on GIs

'It's now recovery mission'

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

ZAMBOANGUITA, Negros Oriental—Rescuers on board an outrigger yesterday threw yellow and red roses into the sea. A priest offered prayers while villagers lit candles at the pier.

"They gave the ultimate sacrifice. I hope you keep them in your minds and in your hearts," American M/Sgt. Mike Farris told rescuers and villagers who turned up at the unplanned but solemn memorial service.

The US military on Sunday gave up hope of finding survivors among the 10 American servicemen aboard an MH-47E Chinook helicopter that crashed three days ago in a ball of fire into the Bohol Strait, a few kilometers from this coastal town.

"Based on our best assessment of the extensive efforts by the Philippine and US search and rescue teams, we have determined that there is no chance that we will find survivors," Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster said in Zamboanga City.

Wurster, head of the US military contingent involved in the Balikatan 02-1 joint training exercise, said the rescue effort had shifted to a recovery mission.

A day earlier, officials were still hoping for a "miracle" because the eight-man crew from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and two Air Force para-rescuers on board the helicopter were all trained in water survival.

The MH-47E Chinook went down 2:30 a.m. Friday after ferrying supplies

RESCUERS/A19

US M/Sgt. Michael Farris leads the floral offering for the 10 American servicemen who died in the Chinook helicopter crash on Friday off Zamboanguita in Negros Oriental.
DENNIS SABANGAN

RP listed among worsening bureaucracies

SINGAPORE—Expatriate businessmen single out the Philippines and Indonesia as having a pattern of worsening bureaucracy, according to a regional survey that found much of the rest of Asia awash with rules and red tape.

Singapore has toppled Hong Kong as Asia's least bureaucratic economy from the rating of a newly released survey by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC).

The survey highlighted how the human and regulatory dimensions of Asian bureaucracy posed major frustrations.

Businessmen dislike systems where there are so many rules it is difficult to find out what is possible and what is not and decisions are open to interpretation by different authorities, the PERC said.

"A lot of systems in Asia" fall into this category, the report said.

"China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam so classify. The Philippines and Taiwan probably do, too. Taiwan, Korea and Malaysia all have bureaucracies where both the human and regulatory dimensions can pose major frustrations."

Of the 12 economies rated on a scale of 0-10, only Singapore (3.10) and Hong Kong (3.64) achieved better than a pass mark.

Hong Kong, the former British colony, was rated the most flexible system in terms of having the fewest rules, but appeared to have been punished for

RP/A6

WE SUPPORT BALIKATAN 2002

VAL HANDUMON

A MUSLIM woman joins a pro-Balikatan rally in Zamboanga City . . .

Pro-Balikatan rally offers prayers for crash victims

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 1,500 people waving Philippine and US flags rallied here Sunday to support a controversial counter-terrorism training exercise by American troops.

They also offered prayers for the crew of a US Army helicopter that crashed in the nearby sea two days ago. ***(See banner story.)***

The rally, led by Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat, was the biggest so far in support of the Balikatan (shoulder to shoulder) exercise involving 660 US troops, including 160 from the Special Forces, to help the Philippine military crush the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group that has been linked to the al-Qaida terror network.

Speakers at the Sta. Maria-Camins Rotunda, a small park outside a Philippine Air Force base used by the US troops, sharply criticized opponents of the exercise who have been holding small but almost daily protests in Manila.

"I hope the people understand this, especially those who oppose the Balikatan," said Jose Mari Bue, who was recently held hostage by a Moro rebel group allegedly allied with the Abu Sayyaf.

He said people were "desperate" for help.

"We have to condole to our

PRO-BALIKATAN/A20

FALL OF JOSEPH ESTRADA

SC justices finally OK Gloria oath

By Amando Doronila

(Editor's Note: Since Thursday, the INQUIRER has published riveting behind-the-scenes excerpts from "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," written by INQUIRER editorial consultant and columnist Amando Doronila. Today, the 16th anniversary of People Power I, we publish the last excerpt from the definitive work on People Power II. Copies of the book and its twin volume, "Fifteen Perspectives on the Estrada Crisis," are available at National Bookstore.)

FOLLOWING the military withdrawal (on Friday, Jan. 19), the crowds swelled at Edsa, reinforced by delegations from the provinces and the mobilization of students.

The mood of the mass organizations was to march to Malacañang Palace.

By late evening of Friday, they had set 6 a.m. the next day as the zero hour for the march. The crowds were chanting "Mendiola! Mendiola!"—the name

SC/A20

Edsa Shrine political, too, bishop told

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christian Esguerra

AN ACTIVIST priest associated with the Estrada Resign Movement yesterday castigated Manila Auxiliary Bishop and Edsa Shrine rector Socrates Villegas for banning political activity at the shrine during the 16th anniversary of Edsa I.

"The Edsa Shrine is not just a place for

EDSA/A19

Too much people power bad, say ex-Presidents

TO REBEL against a dictator or corrupt leader may be justified, but too much of people power is bad for democracy.

This, according to former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Corazon Aquino who themselves set the stage for such "people power" revolts in 1986 and 2001.

Ramos, one of the leaders of the civilian-backed military revolt that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos 16 years ago, said freedom-loving Filipinos should refrain from taking to the streets too often to topple unpopular leaders.

TOO/A20

WALANG NAGBAGO
G.I. JOE OUT!

. . . as members of the militant Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and Sanlakas assail the RP-US war games in a rally at the People Power Monument on Edsa.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Second FRONT PAGE

NANGHO-HOSTAGE NA RIN SILA NGAYON?!

RANSOM OR REVOLUTIONARY TAX?

NPA frees 11 power firm workers

By Rolly Embile and Tony S. Macasinag
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The communist New People's Army released late Saturday 11 workers of the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative (Ficelco) after the company paid a still undisclosed amount of ransom, police said yesterday.

The kidnapped men, who had been held hostage since Friday in Barangay Panuto, Pandan town in Catanduanes province, were part of a work team constructing power transmission lines in the area.

Supt. Gil Hitosis, the acting Catanduanes police provincial director, identified some of the hostages as Florencio Tabuzo, foreman; Macariorito Tabuzo, leadman; Silverio Avila, driver; and Rafael Sebastian, Felimon Tabuzo, Francis Tabirara, Efren Perazola and Rommie Techon, all laborers.

They were released unharmed and allowed to leave the Ficelco compound on Saturday night.

Hitosis said the workers were allowed to go home yesterday after being debriefed by police investigators.

According to a report to the Bicol police regional headquarters at Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here, some 40 NPA guerrillas under Ka Greg, also known as Bartolome Medina, entered the Ficelco compound in Pandan, some 100 km north of the provincial capital of Virac, at about noon of Friday.

Armed guerrillas held hostage everyone inside the compound while the company's foreman, Tabuzo, was sent to the Ficelco headquarters in Virac with a letter demanding payment of P50,000 in revolutionary tax.

The rebels also threatened to burn down the Ficelco facilities which included two service trucks.

Edwin Molina, a Ficelco official who was sent to negotiate for the release of the hostages, confirmed the rebel demand.

Ficelco officials had asked that the company be allowed to resolve the matter peacefully without police interference.

But a joint task force from the Catanduanes police, the 5th Regional Military Group and the Military Intelligence Group 5 monitored the negotiations.

Molina said the rebels treated the hostages well but would not allow them to leave unless the revolutionary tax was paid.

He said he and other officials tried to reason with the rebels, saying that the electric cooperative has been losing money and could not possibly meet the ransom demand.

The Ficelco officials reportedly even showed the guerrillas the firm's financial records.

Molina did not say how much ransom the company eventually paid, or if the P50,000 revolutionary tax would be paid on a regular basis.

Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr., who called for an emergency meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council late Saturday, vowed to resolve the province's criminal and insurgency problems through peaceful means.

Verceles said he has ordered police to ascertain whether the kidnappers were really NPA guerrillas or some other armed group.

He is also looking into the possible deployment of military troops in the island.

The island-province of Catanduanes, three hours by ferry boat off the east coast of the Bicol Peninsula, was until recently considered an insurgency-free area.

The NPA has, however, begun to make its presence felt. They are believed to be responsible for the near-fatal ambush last year of the provincial police director, Supt. Carlos Calima.

Calima, Commission on Elections provincial registrar Gene Paliza and a judge escaped the attack with only minor injuries.

NDF threatens to hold release of 4 gov't 'spies'

THE NATIONAL Democratic Front has threatened to abort the release of four suspected government spies saying President Macapagal-Arroyo was not keen on issuing an order to suspend military and police operations against communist rebels.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDF negotiating panel, said the suspension of military operations (SOMO) and suspension of police operations were prerequisites for the safe and orderly release of Sgt. Jeremias Rosete Jr. and three others who are being held captives by communist rebels somewhere in southern Mindanao.

Citing its sources in the military, Jalandoni said the President wanted the four to remain in the custody of the New People's Army so they can continue to spy on the NPA.

Jalandoni said Ms Macapagal took the position on the advice of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes that Rosete and his companions should be able to continue gathering intelligence information on the rebels like what Maj. Noel Buan allegedly did while in prolonged captivity.

Jalandoni warned that the four captives may instead be tried by the rebels for spying. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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Was it 'moro-moro'? Solon seeks probe

THE HOUSE assistant majority leader is seeking a congressional inquiry into the arrest of a top leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang amid reports that the arrest was a hoax meant to cover up the alleged involvement of the police in the group's criminal activities.

Rep. Danton Bueser filed House Resolution No. 443 over the weekend asking the House committees on public order and security, local government and other appropriate House bodies to conduct the investigation.

The House should look into the claims of Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu that the Feb.16 arrest of Pentagon leader Faizal Marohombsar was a hoax meant as a cover-up for the alleged involvement in kidnapping of some Philippine National Police members, Buesar said in a statement.

Marohombsar had claimed that PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza had given him a safe conduct pass but Mendoza said that the arrest of the Pentagon leader was a legitimate operation.

"The allegations that the apprehension was a hoax is a serious matter that has again tarnished the reputation of the police and thus necessitates a thorough investigation to remove doubts that may have clouded the faith of our people in the PNP," Bueser said. ***Christine Avendaño***

Undocumented OFWs should be allowed to vote, says Angara

By Rocky Nazareno

UNDOCUMENTED overseas Filipino workers, or those without passports, should not be discriminated against in the proposed absentee voting law, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said after holding recent consultations with OFWs in Hong Kong.

Angara, the chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revisions of codes and laws on electoral reforms, said undocumented Filipinos who are qualified to vote should be allowed to use foreign entry cards and other verifiable modes of documentation.

"Even the Constitution says that the passport is not the exclusive proof of Filipino citizenship," said Angara in a press statement.

He said that insisting on passport-only identification would jeopardize the rights of Filipinos who have lost their passports or waylaid them.

Seven opposition senators, led by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., joined a bicameral congressional team that conducted the consultations on two separate proposals in Hong Kong last Thursday. The team went on to conduct similar consultations in Japan over the weekend.

No one from the Senate majority apparently joined the team, as only opposition Senators Edgarda Angara, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, John Osmeña, Panfilo Lacson, Rodolfo Biazon and Vicente Sotto were around to hear the views of representatives of the more than 160,000 Filipinos working in the former British colony.

Representatives Apolinario Lozada and Augusto Syjuco, chairs of the House committee on foreign relations and suffrage, respectively, represented the Lower House.

Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo led the Comelec team that monitored the public consultations.

Angara said that even immigrants and "green card" holders were covered by the proposed absentee voting law.

"The dominant theme is that only those who have renounced their Filipino citizenship shall not be allowed to vote," he said.

Representatives of the Hong Kong-based Filipinos brought up the need to decentralize the counting and canvassing of votes.

The proposed law provides for a fully centralized counting and canvassing of votes to be undertaken in Manila.

The congressional leaders said they would want to see the election results recorded in Hong Kong first before being sent to Comelec headquarters.

"The Filipinos based (in Hong Kong) claimed that they can only feel and internalize the right vote if the counting and canvass were done onsite, not in Manila," said Angara.

He said Congress was intent on passing the measure before June or, at the latest, before the end of the year.

"There is bicameral, bipartisan support for this bill," said Angara.

Once enacted, the absentee voting law will benefit about 7.8 million Filipinos working or living abroad who are not now allowed to register and vote.

Norwegian scientist offers bio-safety study of Bt-corn

By Christine Avendaño

A NORWEGIAN scientist has asked for samples of the Bt-corn hybrid being field-tested in several Philippine provinces for use in what may well be the first "really thorough" bio-safety study on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that he is conducting.

Dr. Terje Traavik, a genetic engineering expert, has cautioned the Philippines against growing genetically modified plants, or transgenic crops, using what he calls the "first-generation technique" such as the Bt-corn being field tested here by Monsanto, a large United States-based agro-chemical transnational.

The field testing of Bt-corn—containing the *Bacillus thuringiensis* that makes it resistant to plant pests—has been vigorously opposed in Isabela, the country's second largest corn-growing province.

Since the government is helpless to stop the field testing of Bt-corn, Traavik said it should then see to it that the product is properly tested.

"So why don't you let us, who have the competence... and money, do all the health-related testing?" Traavik has challenged the government.

Traavik, who left yesterday, had been invited to speak before several forums by non-governmental organizations campaigning against GMOs because of their alleged health and environmental safety risks.

Traavik heads the virology department of Norway's University of Tromso and a scientific director of the Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology.

He said his five-year study was covered by grants so it would not entail any expense on the part of the Philippine government.

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Comelec asks Congress to delay youth polls

By Blanche S. Rivera

PRESSED by time and budgetary constraints, the Commission on Elections has urged Congress to postpone the youth elections to November.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said it would be "difficult" for the Comelec to hold the Sangguniang Kabataan elections in May alongside the barangay polls, which is also facing uncertainty in Congress.

In a letter to Senate president Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, Benipayo said the Comelec was "seriously concerned" about the status of the bills on the SK and barangay polls.

"The Comelec has been preparing for both elections . . . but we cannot continue to prepare in full swing unless we are guided by definitive actions on the said pending bills," Benipayo said in the letter dated Feb. 20.

Comelec commissioner-in-charge Resurreccion Borra said in an earlier press conference that Congress should decide immediately because the funds will be wasted in the preparation if the elections are suddenly postponed.

Borra said a technical committee formed by the Comelec has already formulated key strategies and preparations and would soon be putting these plans into actions using the poll funds.

The Comelec has submitted its cash flow for the barangay elections to the Department of Budget and Management while the Comelec readies for a public bidding.

"We will be spending public funds, so we need to be sure whether they're postponing or not," Borra said. "There are serious considerations. We need a clear signal from Congress."

"When do they want the elections to be held? We have only three months left," he stressed.

Drilon has proposed that the barangay elections push through on May 13 and the SK elections on the first Monday of November. Other proposals seek synchronized elections, although some want these held in May while others in November.

Benipayo said it would be "operationally very difficult" to hold simultaneous elections in May and that it would be "less difficult" to hold them in November.

"Time is pressing in on us," Benipayo further said in his letter. "May we request for an immediate resolution of the issue."

The Comelec chair is still abroad for consultations on the absentee-voting bill.

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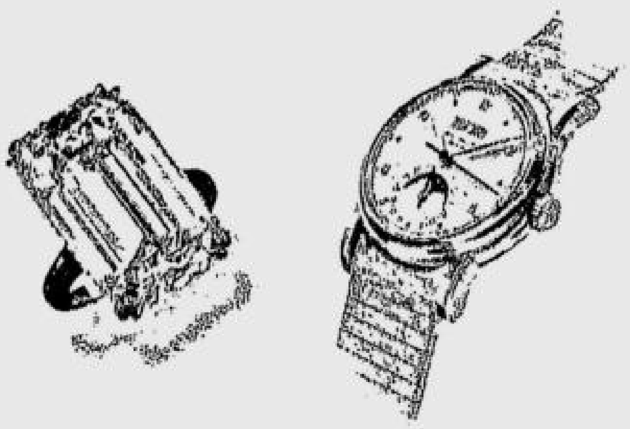

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AFTER four years of "protection," the manta ray, one of the most beautiful creatures of the seas, is in trouble again.

Gov't to allow hunting of manta rays for research

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE AGRICULTURE department will allow the hunting of manta rays in certain parts of the country, but only for research purposes during a six-month period in which Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will conduct a stock assessment of the manta ray population.

Select fishermen would be "accredited" to hunt and catch the fish, which is covered by a ban that has been in effect since November 1998.

The Fisheries Administrative Order 193 has imposed a nationwide ban on the hunting of manta rays and whale sharks but it was reported recently that the BFAR was recommending its lifting despite the objections of the scientific and environmental community.

An executive assistant of BFAR director Malcolm Sarmiento, who is out of the country, said the guidelines on the stock assessment study were still being worked out.

Sarmiento had recommended the lifting of the ban for six months to allow a stock assessment which can be made possible only if manta rays are caught and examined.

Under the proposed set-up, designated fishermen will be authorized to catch and kill the manta rays, but they would have to record their catch and such data as weight, size and color of caught manta rays. The data will then be analyzed by the National Stock Assessment Program.

Fishermen will not be allowed to sell any of their manta ray catch but can keep some of it for their families' needs.

The World Wide Fund-Philippines, a conservationist organization, has opposed the lifting of the ban, even for the limited period being proposed. It said the manta ray population would be killed off even in that short period.

The WWF has reported that manta rays are being hunted, killed and sold openly in at least two villages in Bohol province in violation of the ban. Fishermen reportedly use giant drift nets to catch the manta rays.

MANTA ray meat being dried in the sun. Reports say manta ray meat is sold openly in some Bohol towns.

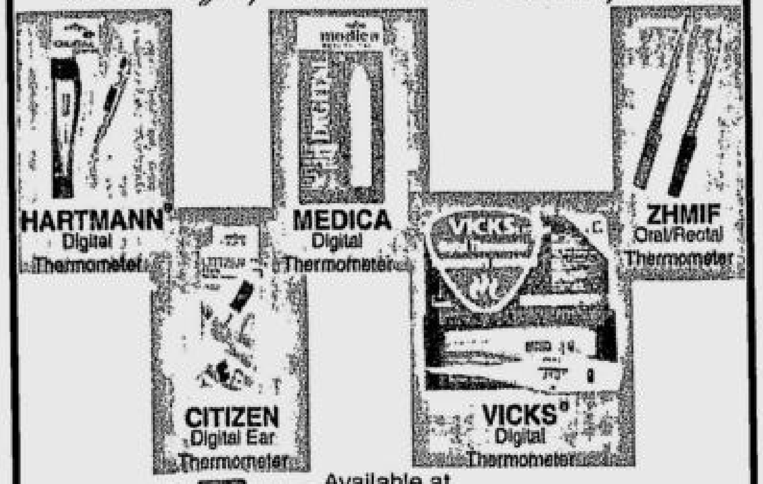
Retrouvaille offers hope to hurting couples

RETROUVAILLE (French for rediscovery), a Catholic healing ministry, offers hope to hurting couples. It helps troubled couples pick up the pieces and rebuild loving relationships. Many married couples, who are struggling to stay together or who have separated but want to reconcile and sincerely desire to build a stable and lasting relationship, have turned to Retrouvaille for help and have experienced hope and healing in their marriages.

The Retrouvaille program consists of a live-in weekend, starting Friday evening and ending on Sunday afternoon, and six follow-up Sunday afternoon sessions during which couples are helped to reestablish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.

The weekend presentors consist of a priest and three couples who have themselves gone through conflict, disillusionment and misery in their relationships and have experienced the Retrouvaille program.

Retrouvaille has scheduled another weekend from March 8 to 10, 2002 at the Saidi Formation House, Antipolo City. The follow-up sessions will be held in Quezon City. Inquiries and reservations maybe relayed through Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361 or 0918-9020511; Bien and Lex Salinas at 933-2783; Mar and Armi de la Rosa at 825-2605; Ike and Flor Carlos at 718-0689; and Willie and Aleth Hernandez at 801-2371.



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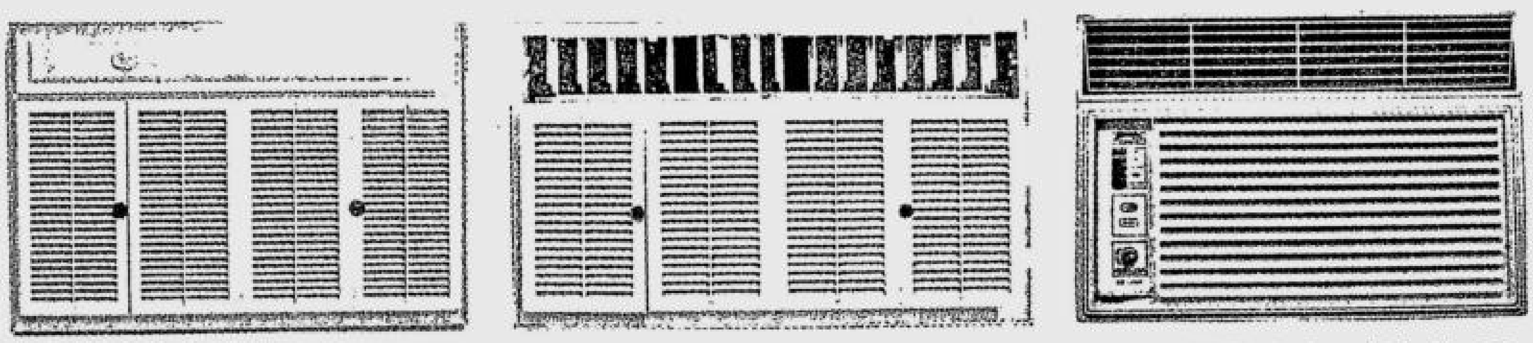

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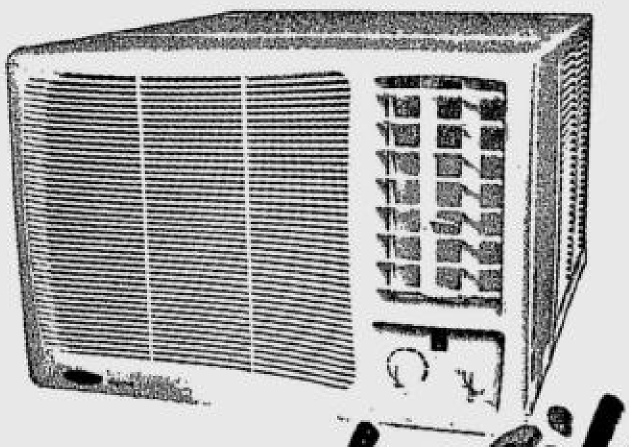

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The public may submit any information, written report, sworn complaint or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants, not later than MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2002, to:

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22 February 2002

(Sgd.) LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

RP listed among worsening bureaucracies

From page A1

a deteriorating standard of spoken English.

Singapore, which has donned the mantle of Asia's least bureaucratic economy, found favor with the business community for providing a tough regulatory environment where clear rules were enforced in a no-nonsense manner.

The Hong Kong government has a reputation for staying out of the way of business but in the past four years there has been growing criticism of the civil service.

"We suspect there are several causes of the criticism," the PERC said.

"A number of recent private surveys, including our own, suggest that businessmen are unhappy with the quality of English spoken in Hong Kong . . . Many people blame the government, and by implication civil servants, for allowing English standards to deteriorate."

South Korea, bottom of the pack six years ago in the annual survey, has shot up to third with a 5.50 rating "because senior politicians have become more sensitive to the needs of business and they have been passing legislation to improve the regulatory environment."

"This has forced civil servants to change their practices in ways that have promoted greater efficiency."

Behind South Korea, the regional bureaucracy scores were Taiwan (6.17), Malaysia and Japan (7.00), Thailand (7.89), China (8.00), Vietnam (8.13), the Philippines (8.18), Indonesia (9.33) and India (9.50).

Opposite way

Indonesia and the Philippines were moving in the opposite direction because the pay for civil servants was very low "which hurts morale and encourages corruption and inefficiency," according to the report.

But the PERC said improving bureaucracy did not mean cutting or raising civil servant salaries but lay in removing many functions from the public sector altogether.

China, one of the most bureaucratic countries in Asia, was listed as doing the most in this direction, hiving off the production functions of various ministries and drastically reducing the size of the civil service.

Malaysia provided an example of how such a plan could also backfire, after private companies which took over public transport functions ran into serious financial difficulty, the PERC said.

The problem for Asian countries was to strike the right balance between the public and private sectors, it said.

"If Asian governments cannot get their fiscal accounts into better order, the conflict between the public and private sectors is bound to grow, and since public sector employees are in a stronger position to defend their share of the pie relative to the private sector, the extent that 'bureaucracy' is perceived to be a problem by those in the private sector is bound to grow."

Bottom-placed India was extremely resistant to change, the PERC said. "Different government departments jealously guard their turf . . . there are so many checks and balances in the system it is difficult to get anything done."

AFP

They fight with books

From page A1

But Nancy and Dan Harrington come armed not with M-16s or grenade launchers but with the most potent of all weapons—books.

Instead of battling insurgents, they fight ignorance and poverty. In place of Chinook helicopters, LBC vehicles are their primary mode of transportation. And in Cebu City, they bring not soldiers but American teachers, to train local teachers from all over.

The couple is the force behind Books for the Barrios (BftB), a San Francisco-based non-profit organization that collects books, learning aids and toys from the United States to donate to public schools in remote villages in the Philippines.

The Harringtons have been sending books to barrios since 1981 but formally established the organization only in 1988.

They used to live at the Subic Naval Base, where Dan was an Air Force pilot while Nancy was a first-grade teacher. Now, she spends her time with the BftB, and Dan flies for a commercial airline.

It was during their stay in the country that the couple noticed how deprived some children and schools were of even the most basic of tools, so they decided to help in their own way. Before they knew it, their little project had taken on a life of its own.

Aside from gifting selected schools with learning material, the BftB also chooses several schools and turns them into models of excellence (MOEs). It also conducts the National Teacher Training Convention for its faculty.

Nancy says the schools they prefer to help are those which lack money and facilities, and are in remote or depressed places. They choose in particular those with "low morale, low test scores and located in very, very poor areas" to turn into MOEs, with help from the Department of Education.

"Poverty should not be a hindrance to children's education. There is no reason why they can't excel," she tells the INQUIRER in an interview in Makati City.

So far, there are 37 MOE schools all over the country. And if Nancy gets her way, one of them will be in Basilan, the war with the Abu Sayyaf notwithstanding.

She is determined to set up a school in the island-province because she sees the need for it. "I really want a school in Basilan," she says.

Computers, too

The organization has already donated books to several schools in Zamboanga and Jolo. And computers, too. The Pakud Elementary School and Panglima Mammah are the only public schools in Jolo with computers, says Nancy, and these were acquired from BftB.

She is bent on "infiltrating" Mindanao and bringing books there because she believes a lot of children have been affected by the fighting in some areas, and thus need education all the more.

"The way to defeat terrorism is to have quality education in schools. When you educate children, there is a way out," she says. "(Establishing a school there) is my contribution toward world peace."

The BftB makes sure that reading is always part of the picture. In MOE schools, it requires children to take home a book at least once a week, and schools are expected to always have a time period in class dedicated to reading.

In some areas, the BftB also has a "reading for rice" project.

Nancy says they had noticed that some children don't get to read at home because their parents order them to work. What the group did, in effect, was to offer a bribe. If a child reads four books a week, the family gets a sack of rice. This way, the children are encouraged to read instead of to work.

The organization also conducts feeding programs in some areas. "If you want to teach children but their stomachs are empty, forget it," Nancy says.

She is also bent on ensuring that public schools do not have religious images and altars. She admits that a lot of people get upset when she points this out, but maintains that it is against the law because there must be a separation of church and state, not to mention that it is discriminatory.

"What if there was a Muslim child? Do you have a place where that child can pray?" she asks.

She is also very vocal against the use of sticks to scare students into submission, and confiscates any that she finds when she visits public schools.

"Scaring them will not help the children. It does not work. It is also illegal," she says.

Model school

Of the MOE schools the BftB has helped develop, Nancy is particularly proud of the Esteban Abada School in Proj. 7, Quezon City.

"I wish more public schools were like this," she says of Abada. Truly a model school, it boasts of clean grounds, colorful murals, a well-stocked library, a toy library, and classrooms where students' works hang proudly.

Its faculty has undergone training with the BftB, and its students are self-confident enough to greet strangers they meet in their hallways.

In terms of technology, it is not eating dust either. It has 28 Pentium III computers donated by the HSBC bank, which has sponsored most of the construction and equipment that helped turn the school into an MOE.

Another school that has improved enough to be called an MOE, with help from the local government and the BftB, is the Emilio Aguinaldo Integrated School right beside a tenement project in Punta, Sta. Ana. While it has undergone a great change and sports most of the facilities required of an MOE, it could use more financial support to be able to rival Abada.

The BftB couldn't have achieved what they had without help from volunteers and private companies. One that has contributed greatly to bringing books to needy public schools is the LBC courier company.

Since 1998, LBC has been delivering materials from the United States to far-flung areas all over the country—free of charge. In the four years that it has been helping the BftB, it has spent at least P66M, says Javier Mantecon, LBC vice president for marketing.

Other establishments that have lent a hand are LeFarge, Rotary International Foundation, Intel Corp., the National Geographic Society, Madrigal Trans Pacific Lines, the C.M. Mosser Foundation and the Dora Freedmon Levit Fund for People.

Every year, the couple solicits books from publishers, schools and children in the United States. Nancy tells them how much their books would benefit those in the Philippines, and the response has usually been positive.

Still, the Harringtons don't settle for just any handout. The foundation always checks the kinds of books they send. The textbooks, reference books, fiction books and magazines must be educational, informative and must not contain biased or discriminatory material.

All told, the BftB has donated over 4 million books to 8 million children in the Philippines, and looks set to donate even more.

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Big rally planned to save Nayong Pilipino

By Norman Bordadora

CULTURAL and environmental groups are gearing up for a huge rally tomorrow to protest the proposed relocation—and the cutting down of thousands of trees—of the Nayong Pilipino theme park.

The Manila International Airport Authority reportedly wants to take over the 45-hectare prime property and use the site to build a cargo facility for the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Nayong Pilipino executive director Charito Planas has, however, clarified that the mass action was not directed against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, the Naia Terminal 3 project or its contractor, Piatco.

Leading the protest actions are the Earth Day Network International and the Heritage Conservation Society.

"Let us be realistic. Going against the Naia Terminal 3 may have severe repercussions on our need to attract foreign investments," Planas said in a telephone interview.

"We just want Nayong Pilipino to remain where it is right now," she said.

Planas said some government agencies, particularly the MIAA under general manager Edgardo Manda, wanted the theme park relocated to pave the way for the construction of the cargo bay for the new terminal.

"We already wrote a letter to the President asking her to let Nayong Pilipino to stay on at its present site. We need to protect and enhance existing parks as well as create new ones around the country," Planas said.

The former vice mayor of Quezon City and overseer of the Quezon City Memorial Circle said she was aware that the planned rally could turn political, with groups against Alvarez, Piatco and the Terminal 3 project taking advantage of the protesters' action.

"The issue is clear. We do not have any problem with Piatco and Terminal 3. Our placards will just read, 'Nayong Pilipino should stay at its present site,'" Planas said.

Planas said Nayong Pilipino had already turned over 8.6 hectares of park land to the MIAA so the Naia would be able to comply with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Office.

"The board of trustees of the Nayong Pilipino acceded to the higher interests of the country in complying with ICAO standards. But we cannot give up the whole place for the Naia's auxiliary support services," Planas said.

"We gave up the 8.6 hectares for just P500 million when its real value was more than P1 billion. They could only afford P300 million... now they want the whole of Nayong Pilipino," she said.

The MIAA would just have to look some place else for a suitable site for the Terminal 3 cargo facility, she said.

Terminal 3, which will boast world-class facilities, is scheduled to open in December.

Planas said the park would temporarily close down soon to make way for a re-design. It will reopen next January.

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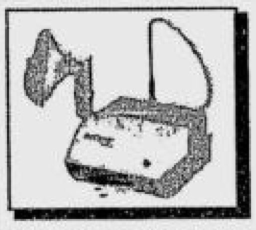

GSIS extends 'Pabahay' loan restructuring

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has extended the deadline for its Pabahay (Housing) Loan Restructuring Program (PLRP) to July 31.

The extension will give some 3,000 delinquent borrowers, who have incurred huge arrears in their housing loans and faced foreclosure proceedings, the opportunity to apply for a condonation of the penalties and surcharges and restructure their loans.

"This will be the last extension," GSIS president and General Manager Winston F. Garcia said.

The GSIS Board approved the extension of the program, noting the success of the program as reflected in the PLRP Status Report presented by Amalio A. Mallari, GSIS senior vice president for Housing and Real Property Development.

"To date, about 7,000 of more than 10,000 borrowers who incurred delinquencies in their housing loans have already availed of the PLRP," Mallari said.

PGM Garcia said that as of Sept. 30, 2001, the GSIS has generated a total cash inflow of P593 million through the restructuring scheme. The amount represents full and partial payments, as well as seed payments from borrowers who availed of the GSIS housing loan condonation program.

Garcia revealed that more than P2.091 billion in housing loan accounts have been updated and restructured through the PLRP.

The GSIS also reported that more than P484 million were condoned through the Program in terms of penalties and surcharges.

To date, the GSIS has received some 2,327 applications for loan restructuring. These applications will be processed upon submission of the necessary documents.

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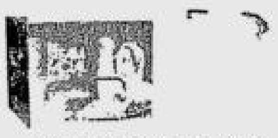

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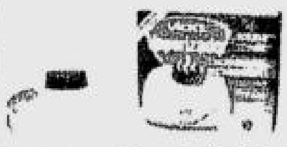

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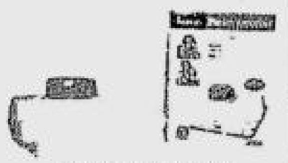

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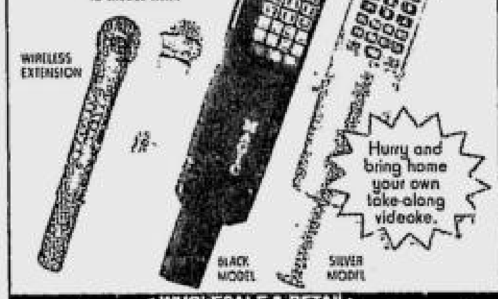

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DTI backs coops-SMEs 2nd trade fair

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is urging the country's cooperatives to participate in the 2nd Coops and SMEs Trade Fair (CSTF) which opens to the industry effective channels for marketing, operations and management assistance.

The trade fair will be held at the Megatrade Hall 1, Building B of the SM Megamall on March 21 to 24, 2002. It is organized by the Department of Trade and Industry, through the Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion, and the Gateway East Inc. in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Cooperatives Development Authority.

All DTI regional directors have been directed to campaign for the participation of cooperatives in their respective areas. The directive is contained in a memo signed by BDTP Director Rhodora Leano, through Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. of the Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulations Group and Assistant Secretary Zenaida Maglaya of the Regional Operations Group.

Interested parties may mail or fax the BDTP at 890-4858 care of Malou Guzman and Jean Gellor, and Gateway East at 637-6754 care of Nilo or Carina. Deadline for participation is Feb. 28.

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OPINION

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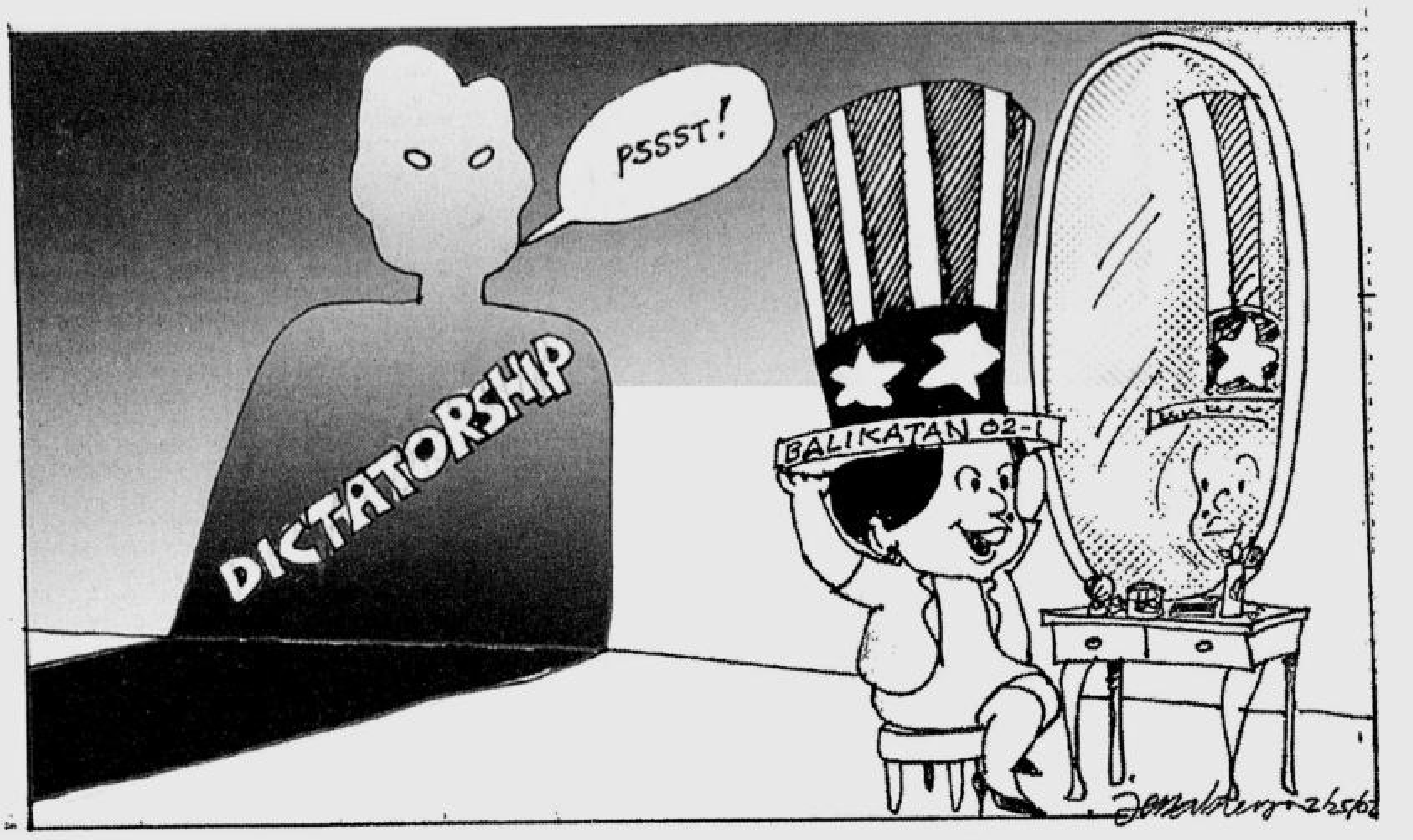


A place in time

EDITORIAL

WHERE do we go from here?

The 16th anniversary of the first triumph of People Power will be marked today with simple, even subdued rites. There is a general sense of fatigue, a nagging notion that the gains and the ideals of Edsa II are going the way of those of Edsa I.

It was not supposed to be this way. Taking a cue from the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church, the Macapagal administration had called for 40 days of celebration, from Jan. 16, the day a year ago when pro-Estrada senators took a gamble and voted to block the opening of the second Jose Velarde envelope, to Feb. 25, the anniversary of the day the dictator Ferdinand Marcos fled to Hawaii.

The idea, solid and historically sound, was to weave the two People Power milestones into one continuous narrative—a new creation account, as it were, for a nation-in-the-making, a people set apart.

But events have overtaken the plan. In the first two months of the year, the issue dominating headlines and table talk alike has been the RP-US Balikatan military exercise. Instead of controlling the issue right from the start, however, the Macapagal administration has found itself consumed in one crisis-management activity after another. It set the tone by treating the decision to conduct the war games in actual combat areas as incidental matter; since then, it has not managed to shake off the public suspicion that it had tried to pull off a fast one. The many side issues that have erupted since have only served to reinforce the suspicion: bypassing Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona, demonizing anti-Balikatan protesters as Abu Sayyaf lovers, releasing incendiary videotape footage.

Without a doubt, the Abu Sayyaf is a major problem, and President Macapagal only reflected popular opinion when she vowed during her first State of the Nation Address last June to wipe out the bandit group in six months' time. But the way the administration has mishandled the war games—Sen. Rodolfo Biazon defined it for all when he described it as a "cavalier attitude"—cements the impression that the President considers herself too beholden to the military. Her behavior since the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes in the United States does not do anything to chip away at that impression.

This, then, is one reason why the general public is less than enthusiastic about today's anniversary. The President has telegraphed the message that it was the military's timely withdrawal of support from the Estrada administration, rather than the presence and passion of a million Filipinos at Edsa—the politics of a moral people, in sum—that installed her in Malacañang.

But it is only right to point out that some hard-core members of the opposition are also responsible for the lack of popular enthusiasm, because they have cynically played the morality game—without, however, explicitly acknowledging it. Hence, the unending spectacle of so-called scandals, from the Robert Rivero non-starter, to the incredible tales of Pacifico Marcelo, to, finally, the entire controversy over the billion-peso PEACe bonds transaction. The transparent idea is to erode the moral high ground that the incumbent administration has occupied since Estrada's ouster. And if we judge by the results of the surveys taken late last year, the strategy is working too, albeit as slowly as, well, actual soil erosion.

A third reason for the lack of enthusiasm for the Edsa celebrations, however, is not attributable to either the administration or the opposition alone. Instead, it is traceable to the entire political class—that is, to all politicians. The signature campaign in both houses of Congress to convince the Sandiganbayan to allow medical treatment abroad for deposed President Joseph Estrada has struck the general public with the shock of the contemptibly familiar. This is politics at its worst, the "what are we in power for" mentality of old but lazily disguised this time as a humanitarian gesture. The twin triumphs of People Power had been based on a repudiation of the politics of self-interest. What are the 19 signatures in the Senate and the 136 in the House then, but the herald of discredited politics, returned with a vengeance?

The PAL vs Cebu Pacific airfare war

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE DOGFIGHT between airline pioneer Philippine Airlines and new entrant Cebu Pacific Airways continues to rage. After the "battle of the ads," they are now waging an "airfare war." Cebu Pacific fares have dived steeply to attract more passengers. The prize in the dogfight: four new flight entitlements to Korea. Cebu Pacific wants all four new frequencies for itself; it will use them all for the Manila-Seoul route. To be fair, PAL wants to split it in half: two for Cebu Pacific and two for PAL. PAL will use the two extra weekly flights for the Cebu-Seoul route which, as its name implies, Cebu Pacific's franchise obliges it to serve.

Of course, air travelers are happy with the airfare. They save a few dollars by taking Cebu Pacific. But PAL is fighting back, not with lower fares but with press releases.

"What's the catch?" PAL asks. It answers its own question: "Cebu Pacific can afford to drop its fares way below market level because it operates a very old fleet, consisting mainly of DC-9 planes that first came out in the 1960s. It offers spartan, no-frills service. It does not have the conveniences high-end business and leisure travelers expect from an international airline."

Logically, since a cheap operation does not require investment in newer aircraft or upgraded services, Cebu Pacific must price its fares accordingly. It can't do otherwise. If it charged any higher than it does now, that would not be commensurate with its product nor fair to the consumer. The passenger should get what he pays for.

PAL, on the other hand, caters to a totally different customer base, says the airline's press release. It is the preferred airline of the middle to upper segments of the market, especially business and leisure travelers. "It offers a full-service product, including new generation aircraft, business class service, exclusive Mabuhay lounges at the Naia and Mactan airports, greater flight schedules, among others. Not surprisingly, PAL's fares reflect its superior products and passengers know they are paying a premium for this," said PAL.

In other words, when it comes to the total product they offer, PAL and Cebu Pacific cannot be compared with each other. It is like comparing apples with oranges. Ultimately, it is up to the passenger to decide what kind of ride he wants. If he is on a tight budget and just wants the basics, go from one place to another, he can choose Cebu Pacific. But if he wants to travel in style and comfort and doesn't mind paying a little extra for it, he can choose PAL. It is the same as choosing to fly economy or business class or first class. To put it another way, Cebu Pacific is for budget travelers; PAL is for those with bigger budgets. Or, to put it very crudely, Cebu Pacific is for peasants; PAL is for the landowners.

There is a fallacy in the current dogfight. Cebu Pacific vs. PAL is not a David-and-Goliath fight. This is a battle of Goliaths, with each airline backed by huge, rich rival business empires—the Gokongwei group in Cebu Pacific's corner and the Lucio Tan group in PAL's corner. It is really a taipan vs. taipan fight.

Considering the powerful financial muscle behind the two carriers, it is fair to ask: What has each business empire done to improve its airline? PAL has a 61-year record of service to the nation. Until it was forced into receivership in 1998, a major part of PAL's mission was serving outlying communities—the so-called "missionary routes"—in tandem with its role as the nation's flag carrier to international points. These routes were difficult and sometimes unprofitable, but PAL dutifully served them.

Cebu Pacific hewed to a different strategy: make profits by scrimping on improvements. The airline deploys a decades-old fleet, thus saving a lot of money on lease charges. It avoided missionary routes and concentrated on the well-developed trunk routes to the major provincial capitals. In the international sector, it is following the same safe approach, refusing to develop its own routes and create its own markets, and preferring to ride on the prior efforts of others.

Cebu Pacific does not even make an effort to develop international services out of its home base, Cebu, despite being obliged to by its franchise. It has declared its intention to use all four disputed frequencies to Korea on the saturated Manila-Seoul route, instead of Cebu-Seoul, an underserved route that would bring more benefits to Cebu communities and promote a new gateway to the Philippines.

There is nothing wrong with making profits cheaply. Budget airlines in Europe and America have followed the same route to success. But in allocating hard-earned national assets such as flight entitlements, it is a waste to see such resources benefiting a few in Manila while those who most need it, the Cebu airport and tourism sectors, are deprived of any direct connection to the Korean market.

The obvious—and fair—solution to the impasse is to split them equally 2-2. PAL, with its pioneering Cebu-Seoul service would put to good use its two extra frequencies by bringing in more tourists to the tourist-starved South. Cebu Pacific, with two flights from Manila to Seoul, gets the opportunity to develop its Korean market without glutting the route with capacity. Everybody wins in this scenario—our two flag carriers, the sprawling Mactan airport, the riding public in Manila, Cebu and Seoul and, most importantly, our ailing tourism industry.

* * *

Comments to asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Burning houses

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE wrote me to say that when a fire hits your house, you do not go around trying to douse it yourself. You ask your neighbor, the one with the resources, to help you douse it. You do not indulge in foolish pride, thinking you can meet the crisis alone. You think instinctively of your family and yell your head off.

That obviously is how those who support the presence of American troops in Basilan, many of whom genuinely believe it will do us a lot of good, see the situation. What we have is a burning house caused by our own carelessness. The fire is the Abu Sayyaf and the other "Muslim extremists" in the South, whoever they are. And the fire is raging. The United States is currently in the firefighting business and is willing to help—no, is insisting on helping—those in need of its services. Why shouldn't we grab the offer?

Well, the metaphor is interesting, but it is far from accurate. What I myself feel like I am fighting here is not a fire but a myth, and it is always harder putting down a myth than a fire. It's enough to make you despair of being able to push it back an inch, it keeps roaring back again and again. We keep wondering, as I said before, how anyone can possibly believe that Erap is "*para sa mahirap*" when his whole rule has shown only that he is "*para sa sarili.*" Yet many of us believe with a passion that the Americans are for the Pinoy when our whole history has shown only that they are for themselves. It's the same myth.

The metaphor, or myth, of the burning house presumes several things. None of them has a leg to stand on.

One is that the fire has gone out of control and is threatening to burn our house down. And we are powerless to stop it. That isn't true at all. The Abu Sayyaf are a menace, no doubt about it. But a recycled video of them beheading a captive and AFP avowals about the need to flush them out with American-made satellite technology do not make them a legion of the anti-Christ, a.k.a. Osama bin Laden's horde. We can't put away a fire like that by ourselves, we deserve to have our house burn down. We should not be having a house in the first place. We should apply for statehood.

Yet another is the firefighters will go as soon as the fire goes, glad to have helped a friend in need, needing only a word of thanks in repayment. That isn't true as well. The neighbor isn't there to put out a fire, it is there to protect a room in the house it has been asking to use. There is no record of the Americans helping us for no other reason than that it is the neighborly thing to do. There is a record only of the opposite, of us helping the Americans because it is the hospitable thing to do. Hiding them during the Japanese Occupation at risk of life and limb is one example

Still another presumption is that we can control how the visiting firefighters will act while fighting the fire. That we can make them ask our permission first before entering rooms that are not in harm's way. The crash of a Chinook off Negros Oriental, the result of a flight local authorities knew absolutely nothing about, should dispel that notion.

There are other presumptions in that metaphor that have no leg to stand on. All it shows really is that most people in this country have not read their history. It's the one thing this issue has revealed to me in all its nakedness, the depth of this country's lack of sense of the past. You want to pursue the metaphor of the burning house, you have to add the following features, as that past demands:

What we have today is a burning house of our own making. One of the members of our family has already caught the prankster who was playing with matches, but instead of punishing him, let him off for a bribe. That is the AFP who cornered the Abu Sayyaf, but let them escape for—as Fr. Cirilo Nacorda revealed—a part of the ransom money. The fire itself that the prankster has started in one corner of the kitchen is such that a full pail of water should be enough to put it out.

Calling American troops in is calling a rich neighbor who has once been an earnest suitor of our daughter but whom our daughter has rejected with finality. That is the decision of the Senate to reject the US Bases Treaty. Or perhaps the more accurate image here is that of a husband our daughter has kicked out of the house for being a wife-beater. Whichever.

We know that the neighbor has been accosting our daughter each time she passes down the block, trying to woo her, vowing to be the best lover she will ever know. Or courting her again, vowing to change and become a new man. But whom our daughter, still carrying the welts to show for a bad marriage, has repeatedly spurned. That is the American overtures to get back to the Philippines via all sorts of military agreements. Our daughter does not lack for other suitors in the neighborhood, which are the other countries, among them, the Islamic ones, who are willing to come to our aid to put out the fire. But for some perverse reason, we insist on calling on the rich neighbor with the bad record as a guest in our house.

Thinking that the Americans will go as soon as they have helped douse the kitchen fire is thinking that the spurned suitor, or estranged husband, will be content to leave with a word of thanks. Thinking that we can control the actions of American troops in this country is thinking we can keep the suitor or ex-husband from entering our daughter's bedroom when he insists it is in imminent danger of being gutted too.

What we have in this country today is truly a burning house. But it is a fire of quite another origin and requires firefighters of quite another sort.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

New deal opens up tight Danding fiefdom

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OUR sympathies as a nation go with the families of the 10 American servicemen believed to have perished in the recent crash of the Chinook helicopter in the Negros seas. No matter where one stands in the controversy surrounding the Balikatan exercises, one's sympathies should go to those who die in the line of duty and who have no direct say in the decisions of governments and leaders.

* * *

PCGG chair Haydee Yorac and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco have come to what is billed as "an interim power-sharing agreement" wherein Trade Secretary Mar Roxas played a key role as referee, upon orders of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Under the arrangement, Cojuangco relinquishes control of the United Coconut Planters Bank entirely but retains management of the San Miguel Corp. The government gets adequate representation in SMC through its seven directors in the board (versus Danding's three and Kirin Beer's two seats), while the entire UCPB board is now composed of government appointees, including five coconut farmers.

By the way, former Quezon Rep. Oscar Santos has declined his nomination to the UCPB board in favor of Joey Faustino, the secretary general of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement. Santos says he does not want the farmers to think he was doing battle for them when all along he had a vested interest. His *delicadeza* is rare.

* * *

I asked Santos whether the various coconut farmers' groups would approve of this new arrangement, and he opined that doubtless there would be those who would feel it's still inadequate. He also stressed that the ideal situation would have been for the Supreme Court to settle more definitively the issue of the coconut levy's public character back in 1993, when it first ruled about its being "imbued with public interest." But he stressed that this "*palaging kulang*" feeling is good as it keeps government agencies on their toes. He is right, for had the farmers' groups, backed by various civic and religious groups, not made noise, the agreement might not be even half as beneficial for them.

For my part, I feel good about Roxas' announcement that the government will now be represented in various critical committees of SMC, such as the excom, audit, compensation and nomination committees, as well as in existing and new subsidiaries of SMC. Before the PCGG board under Yorac was constituted, SMC in Erap's time was run like a tight fiefdom by Cojuangco, with the government shut out from every facet of SMC, despite the fact that it owns nearly half of the SMC shares.

* * *

The issue of deposed President Estrada's knee-operation in the United States may have become moot and academic after his US doctor, Christopher Mow of the Stanford University Medical Center, communicated to Dr. Lauro Abraham, president of the Philippine Orthopedic Association (POA), his sentiments on this matter. Earlier the POA had reacted adversely to the opinion attributed to Mow and peddled by Erap's lawyers, that the deposed president needs an operation badly which can only be done in the United States on account of the lack of competence of Filipino surgeons and adequate facilities here. Abraham asked Mow exactly what he meant and Mow clarified that surgery for Erap is not that urgent and that there was never any reference to the expertise of Filipino doctors or medical facilities here.

It is obvious that the surgery is being used by Erap's people to get him out of the country and they have capitalized on the "*pusong mamon*" of the legislators so that they could pressure the Sandiganbayan to let him leave. We all feel pity for Erap for whom the Veterans Memorial Medical Center suite has become unbearable, but there is also the need to temper mercy with justice. What would happen doubtless is that as Makati Rep. Butz Aquino has implied, Erap won't come back until a more favorable administration assumes power. Meanwhile, what happens to his plunder case? Aquino was quoted as saying he will resign his House seat if Erap doesn't come back, but this is idle talk, for more excuses can be conjured later to delay Erap's return.

The best thing is for Erap to have the knee operation here, and finish the trial fast. If he is innocent he could leave for good. But if he is proved guilty, then he should face the music.

* * *

Erap's prospective trip abroad for surgery remains a hot topic across the nation. At the gathering for running priest Fr. Robert Reyes' 46th birthday in UP Diliman last Saturday evening, I queried Konsyensiyang Pilipino leader Tess Baltazar how she felt about talk that the Macapagal administration is inclined to let Erap go abroad as it does not want his health deteriorating under its watch. Baltazar opined that should anything happen to Erap while in detention, "then that is an act of God," and that a foreign trip should be ruled out as he has a pending case. "*O kaya*", she said, "*Ibalik muna niya ang ninakaw niyang pera sa bayan.* Then he can go."

In Baguio I recently came across the column in the "Midland Courier" of the former private prosecutor at the Senate impeachment trial, Pablito Sanidad, who opined satirically: "Like Erap we also suffer from arthritis. Can we also be sent to the US for treatment? Our senators and congressmen are anti-poor. They passed twin resolutions urging the government to allow Erap to go to the US to have his arthritis treated. Only the rich can afford that. How about the poor like us? Must we continue to rely on Filipino doctors whom Erap, the great lover of the poor, does not seem to trust? My doctors have never recommended that I should go to the US for my arthritis. They see no need for that. Maybe it's time to change doctors..."

O say, can you see?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

ON THE STREET where I live are probably the oldest electric posts in the country. They were manufactured in the United States by a company identified only as "J.B. Co." etched into the concrete. The one in front of our house, No. 168, was made on Aug. 1, 1938, but down the road is No. 98, dated July 6, 1925.

We still have plenty of those century-old acacia trees with which the Americans lined the streets leading to their turf: from the post to what used to be the military reservation, now the provincial capitol site, and from the main junction down Scott Road, named after one of the last American officials posted in this town, to the Constabulary headquarters, now the PNP compound.

They also planted acacias on the roads leading to their outposts in Camp Andres in Luuk and Bilaan in Talipao, most of which still exist to this day, many of them made more beautiful by aerials clinging to them for dear life.

In the town of Indanan, the famous Mrs. Spencer, a Thomasite and a philanthropist, founded an agricultural school where Tausug boys were taught not only horticulture, but also songs of the American civil war that they were made to copy into "composition books," one of which somehow found its way into our home.

Written in pencil in characteristic American-taught script modeled after John Hancock's signature, the notebook contains such songs as "My Old Kentucky Home," "Yankee Doodle," "Sweet Afton," "Dixie" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

I attended grade school in the first schoolhouse built here by the Americans, a typical country schoolhouse of wood and solid concrete raised a few feet from the ground, with high ceilings and a wide, wide frontage where we held convocations.

In the space between the left and right wings was a garden, in the center of which was a drinking fountain of cool, clean water; but in our time, the faucet had long gone to rust, and only the pipe remained on the concrete stand, so that the water flowed gently the whole day, seeping into the grass and the earth, keeping the marigolds, cockscombs and bachelor's buttons, from seeds brought over from America, constantly watered.

But the best part of all was the library that was stocked by the Americans with all those treasured children's classics from Grimm's Fairytales to Nancy Drew, and in between we had "Heidi," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "Black Beauty," even "The Song of Hiawatha" published as a book by itself with beautiful colored illustrations on every other page.

And when we got to high school, we had stacks and stacks of more books left to us by the Americans; a collection that included all of the Alcott books, Greek mythology and such titles as "A Tale of Two Cities," "Silas Marner," "Les Misérables," "The Rubaiyat" and an enormous dictionary that had to be enshrined on its own stand.

Of course, I would learn later that thousands of my forbears were killed by the Americans, in the infamous massacre on Bud Dahu, in the battle of Bud Bagsak, in Talipao and on the island of Patian, where the famous Jikiri, a victim of the American justice system, made his last stand.

Which is probably why I really can't understand all this fuss about the "return" of the Americans. You mean they left?

Remove American brands from our grocery shelves and all we'll have are herbal teas and aromatic candles. Even if we wash them out of our hair, chances are we'll be using their shampoo.

The Americans are so omnipresent and omniscient that they were even in Afghanistan where they created Osama bin Laden to drive out the Russian invaders there, but he in turn created the al-Qaida network that created the Abu Sayyaf and brought this scourge upon us. That too, is globalization.

And so when by the dawn's early light I saw those blonds disembarking from their frighteningly monstrous aircraft and walking on the tarmac in their characteristic gait, so hurried that they go at a precarious 60-degree angle from the ground, as if the distance covered is equivalent to where their heads are in space, (no wonder they could conceive such a word as "headlong"), I actually heaved a sigh of relief.

But they should have landed before the beheadings began or even before the Abu Sayyaf became millionaires. But then Abu Sabaya had not yet kidnapped American citizens, and the World Trade Center still stood reaching for the sky.

Nonetheless, now that they're here, they can clean up this mess, if not the toxic ones in their former bases. It is not a matter of violation of our sovereignty; it is a matter of obligation.

As for those who are concerned that we in Mindanao, especially Basilan and Sulu, might get blasted out of existence by the smart bombs of the Americans—well, we've been almost continuously blasted for decades now, by the clueless ones of our own. Is there a difference?

Besides, nobody lost sleep when we were being threatened with extinction by the past administration's "all-out war," and the siege of Jolo when the military not only unleashed their bombers and tanks on this island, but also totally cut us off from the rest of humanity, so that even if we cried for help, nobody could hear us.

But if, at the twilight's last gleaming, we will finally be free from fear of being terrorized, kidnapped and beheaded, I'm sure there will be enough light remaining by which we can see whether, through the night, our flag will still be there.

New curriculum's missing front teeth

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

CURRICULUM is one of those strange words that reflect the convoluted nature of their subject. It almost sounds like some obscure organ one finds deep in the intestines while studying anatomy at medical school, or maybe a contraption for examining and probing it.

The Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) is of course, the set of subjects that the Department of Education (DepEd) prescribes to all public schools. It is also the biggest political football in education. It sets the amount of time per week spent on each subject. Because of Education Secretary Raul Roco's insistence that it be implemented for the 2002-03 school year, despite the lack of institutional readiness, consternation and confusion reign in the ranks of teachers, principals and others involved.

The DepEd has seen fit to rearrange the deck chairs on our titanic educational enterprise and many teachers are being hurt or marginalized, even as others end up with impossible loads and schedules. The gnashing of teeth most loudly reported is among those involved in the learning area called "Makabayan," which is really a mishmash of several subjects. Jobs and power rise and fall with changes in curriculum.

Perhaps the good secretary should pay more attention to those problems of adjustment, logistics and personnel, and less to the prospects that beckon in 2004, when his departure for higher (or no) position is guaranteed by ambition, one way or another. So much for the secretary, whom I respect, but this commentary is about education, not politics.

In my opinion the substantive thing about the new curriculum is that it is missing its two front teeth because of the short shrift science subjects will get. How come the new BEC does not prescribe science as a formal subject in the very first two grades of elementary school? That's right. Look at your copy of it closely, and look at a table that shows, at each grade level from 1 to 10, the number of minutes per week assigned to each learning area (English, Pilipino, Math, Science and Makabayan).

The DepEd apparatchiks have been making claims that more emphasis on math and science subjects are needed because Filipino students are doing miserably in international tests of competence in these two crucial areas. Not to mention our misery in the tests that really matter, namely, national competitiveness. After all, math and science are to the modern world, what metalworking was to the Bronze age, or agriculture to agrarian societies, after humans stopped hunting and gathering for a living. Intellectual property now constitutes the biggest segment of the world's wealth. Just look at the richest man in the world, Bill Gates. His main source of wealth—software—is almost pure mathematics, being essentially logical mind over physical matter.

Yet, there are zero minutes per week for science in Grades 1 and 2. This is atrocious. Someone is asleep at the switch.

I think this is simply wrong-headed. Every modern study of how children learn, shows that they do that best at a young age, with life-long potential fixed before 7 or 8 or even younger. The BEC does say that science will be taught in these crucial grades as part of the English learning area. But English teachers should not be burdened with the daunting task of teaching basic science. The needs of one will hobble the other, to the everlasting detriment of both. (I am happy that English is the prescribed medium of instruction for both math and science, it being the world's *lingua anglica*, to the French and Filipino nationalists' dismay. Pilipino is paired with Makabayan.)

Nothing against English teachers of course, but if "science" merely provides the nouns in language class, there is bound to be wrong information passed on that kids may never unlearn. English teachers have their hands full with English as it is.

In defense of it someone said, "But science is too hard to teach to little kids since nature is so complex." Yet kids already learn all sorts of discredited baloney about nature and the world. When is it too soon to begin benefiting from the treasures of biology, chemistry and physics? Isn't it better to get the stuff right the first time and not have to unlearn so much?

This implies how shallow is the understanding of science in the education establishment. They must think science is a complete book of knowledge where formulae can be learned anytime in life. Perhaps to some, education is about stuffing heads with chunks of official learning. They think that "values" can actually be taught in lectures. Perhaps the unvarnished truths of scientific discovery are not enough for them. But science is about the mysteries that abound in the universe, and the proven method for exploring them, not the flawed certainties of dogma and cant. I suppose one might read something sinister into this, considering the sectarian influences that have shaped the curriculum. But it's more inertia than obscurantism, and should be examined for breaches of the Constitution, like so many other Filipino institutions.

I think that education is more a process of rocket ignition, not human horticulture. Once a kid gets fired up about how abysmally ignorant we actually are about the universe, there's no stopping the process of studying and learning in him or her. Science can provide that explosive spark. Let's ignite it at the earliest stages, so we can smile proudly without those missing front teeth.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

'Shooting' a war zone

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

BY THIS time, the entire complement of American soldiers who are participating in the Balikatan 02-1 war games would have arrived and been given their assignments. Close on their heels are scores of print and broadcast journalists from all over the world waiting for breaking news they can transmit to their home offices.

The photographers and camera personnel among them are looking forward to taking pictures of scenes or incidents that can win them prestigious awards or make their names a byword in their profession.

Photos of military activities in Basilan and Sulu have been appearing regularly in our broadsheets, courtesy of local photographers and international news agencies.

A reader, Antonio Lejano of Caloocan City, made some interesting observations about photos from those two places that were featured on the front pages of the INQUIRER and Philippine Star.

He wrote: "I noticed that last week my favorite newspaper and the Philippine Star had the same pictures on their front page. This does not look like to me as a coincidence anymore.

"On Feb. 11, both newspapers had the photo of the damaged C-17 cargo plane being repaired at the Zamboanga airport. Two days later, you and Star showed pictures of American soldiers in civilian clothing carrying firearms while waiting for a comrade to withdraw money from a bank. (*In the Feb. 11 photos, there was this difference: only one soldier was keeping watch under the plane in the INQUIRER photo while in the Star photo three crewmen were fixing the engine.*—**Ed.**)

"On Feb. 14, it was the picture of a Filipino soldier lying down reading a Valentine's Day card while his cellphone and M-14 rifle rested behind him. On Feb. 15, your common picture was General Holland of the US Special Operations Command who visited Zamboanga surrounded by heavily armed bodyguards. (*The Feb. 15 photos: General Holland is shown shaking hands with General Cimatu in the INQUIRER photo while in the Star photo he is shown talking only with Cimatu.*—**Ed.**)

"Why do these common photos happen? Do your editors talk to Star editors to decide on what pictures should be published on the front page? I do not want to think that you and Star have an agreement on what should be published and what should not."

Coincidences

This is not the first time my attention has been called to what appears to be recurring coincidences in the front page photos of the two newspapers mentioned. There were even instances in the past when their banner headlines were worded similarly.

The comment I often got when these things happen is "*Nagusap ba kayo ng Star kung anong litrato ang ilalagay sa* front page? (Did the INQUIRER and Star talk to each other beforehand on what photo to put on the front page)?"

Considering the tight deadlines the editors have to meet (not to mention the friendly rivalry between the two newspapers), it is next to impossible for the staff of either newspaper to ring up each other to compare notes on what photo to use on their respective front pages.

As correctly pointed out by the eagle-eyed reader, the photos that came out in the two newspapers on the dates he mentioned were strikingly similar. Except for some slight difference in angle or color shade, the photos appeared to have come from the same camera. As if the same photo was lent to the other and simply retouched to make them look different.

It is interesting to note that in the Feb. 14 photo of a soldier reading a Valentine card, the photographers who took the shot even had the same first names—Val Handumon of the INQUIRER and Val Rodriguez of Star.

If this picture is nominated, let us say, for the best human interest photo at the battlefield award, the judges may have a problem deciding on who to give the credit for the shot. Splitting the award and cash price may be the best course of action to take in case that question crops up.

Security measures

According to the INQUIRER's chief photographer, Ernie Sarmiento, the coincidence in photo shoots in Basilan and Sulu, (or for that matter, in war zones or areas where the threat to life is strong) cannot be avoided.

Unlike reporters who can interview military spokespersons or officials who come from the battlefield within the safety of the camps, photographers have to get close as much as possible to the scene of the action if they want to send dramatic or eye-catching photos to their editorial desks.

In the course of their picture taking, the photographers expose themselves to flying bullets and exploding bombs: Those weapons of death and destruction do not make a distinction between combatants and non-combatants. It's just too bad if somebody crosses the trajectory of the bullets or the exploding bombs.

For security reasons, the photographers go around in groups while searching for photos that their newspapers can use to make their pages more interesting to read. When bullets are whizzing around and bombs are exploding, they can pull each other from harm's way or knock some sense into the head of reckless colleagues.

Although photographers believe that no picture is worth giving one's life for, some of them sometimes forget that principle when they find themselves in the thick of the action.

Keeping each other company also minimizes the possibility of being kidnapped by any of the bandit groups operating in Mindanao that have made kidnapping a cottage industry of sorts. Although the photographers do not carry guns that can ward off kidnap attempts, the would-be kidnappers may think twice if they see that their potential targets are not alone or helpless.

So when the photographers see something worth recording on film, they quickly press their camera buttons and send the photos to their editors for possible use. The editors don't ask if the competition also has the same photo. If the photos are dramatic, like that of the soldier reading a Valentine card while resting between combat missions, they will publish it regardless of whether other newspapers will carry the same photo.

Digital cameras

Sarmiento also explained that the digital camera that most photographers use partly accounts for the publication of similar photos. This latest camera model allows the photographer to view the scene he just photographed as if it had already been developed. From the sample photo, one can see if the subject is blurred, too bright or unappealing.

In the course of their photo jaunts or breaks, they compare notes or photos of scenes they have earlier taken. The photographers may work for competing newspapers, but that does not prevent them from exchanging trade secrets or photo shoots. After all, they're no different from the soldiers who brave the same kind of dangers in performing their tasks.

When a photographer sees a digital sample of a scene "shot" by another and finds it nice, he usually asks where the photo was taken. The other photographer will only be too glad to bring him to the photo spot so he can make his own shoot. The two photos, although taken at different times, will eventually find their way to the editorial desks of their respective newspapers.

The pictures that grace the pages of newspapers "speak a thousand words" but they do not give an idea of the effort taken and dangers undergone by the men and women who made it possible for the readers to see them.

When will bank loan rates ever go down?

I AM a small bank borrower and I am charged around 19 percent for my loan. The Treasury bill benchmark rate is currently around 7 percent and no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho have called on the banks to lower their lending rate. Still, thousands of small clients like me end up being charged with what amounts to 170 percent over this benchmark rate.

The banks replied that they have a high-performing asset loan ratio (bad loans) and that their overhead mandates them to charge that much interest rate. The bad loans ratio is a result of our distressed economy, and this affects every player in it. Why should the banks be an exception? In their annual report to their stockholders, they glory in the fact that despite the hard economic times, they still manage to turn in a tidy profit!

Moreover, their overhead and administrative costs amount to around 100 percent of their cost of sales or cost of money. Which is the reason why they cannot charge lower rates. If you take a look at this ratio in other countries, you will find this to be much lower. Which is why loan rates in these countries are that much lower. We are in effect coddling an industry that refuses to grow up, and saddles us with the high cost of borrowing.

This is not to mention the fact that prime clients—the big corporate and multinational firms—are charged only around 12 percent because they carry less lending risk (*kuno*). Which makes the poor poorer and the rich richer. Of course, it does not matter that when a big client defaults, this is equivalent to a thousand small clients defaulting. It is only in the Philippines, perhaps, where the small clients carry more than their proportionate share in the cost of doing business, because the big players get the benefit of riding on the backs of small clients like me. As they say, if you are a small borrower, you are at the mercy of the banks. But if you're a big client, the banks are at your mercy. Historically, all the cases of bank failures in the Philippines were caused by the default of the so-called prime clients, not of small borrowers.

Perhaps, it is time to open the banking sector freely to foreign banks, so that our local banks will be forced to grow up, trim their overhead and compete with them globally. This will result no doubt in lower interest rates to small clients like me, and will fully democratize bank borrowing.

—SAMUEL J. YAP, 2 Verbona, Doña Manuela, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Uneven handling of Petron story

WE, the Petron Dealers Association (Petda), are writing in connection with the news stories published in the INQUIRER regarding the accusations of Rep. Oscar Moreno against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

We would like to state that we have always held the INQUIRER in the highest regard. It is a paper that has earned the public's trust because of its unbiased coverage of significant events. However, our belief has been eroded by what we feel to be unfair treatment of the stories on this case.

In most articles on the subject matter, the phrase "Petron scam" has been misleadingly used to refer to the incident wherein a criminal syndicate was able to encash checks that had been issued to the Bureau of Customs. In addition, former Petron officers have been mentioned numerous times in connection with the alleged scam, unjustly damaging their reputation.

One such person is former Petron vice president Celso L. Legarda. For almost three decades now we have had business dealings with him. We have known him to be a man of integrity, fairness and high morals. His adherence to unbending ethical standards is legendary within our group, and we are pained by the trauma caused by this issue on his person. We do not believe any of the conjectures that may have arisen from this case.

While the story about the impeachment complaint against Desierto (because of the alleged tax credit scam) has been given prominence almost daily, we have only read once or twice the rebuttal of our partner company Petron Corp. and its officers.

Like any association, we are gravely concerned that the continued publication of these stories (without ventilating the other side) propagates misconceptions about Petron and its officers, negatively affecting our business operations.

—AURORA C. LARA, chair, Petron Dealers Association, Unit 1515 Cityland Herrera Tower, 98 Herrara corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City

Southern politicos don't object to US forces

I CONSTANTLY travel to Mindanao, particularly in areas where the barter trade flourishes, in order to augment my meager pension. I retired from government service as a public school teacher at the Don Quintin Paredes High School in Project 2, Quezon City. I have observed the political and economic situation particularly in Zamboanga and Basilan. Politicians themselves are in favor of the Balikatan exercises. They say that the visit of US forces will enhance the tourist industry of their provinces as well as business in the city.

Why are some politicians and cause-oriented groups here in Manila against the military exercises? *"Siguro wala po silang kita kaya po sila nag-iingay."*

—GLORIA CONCEPCION, 3 Bignay St., Project 3, Quezon City

False claims about condom use

I HAVE noticed an advertisement put out by a group called the Catholics for Free Choice. Two false claims about condom use are made by this group which are clearly scientific rubbish.

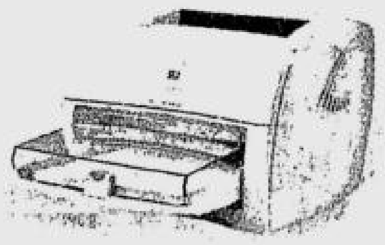
First, it claims that "most Catholics" disagree with the Church's objection to condom use. For this statement to be scientifically true, the Catholics for Free Choice must have interviewed more than half of the world's one billion Catholics. Obviously this has not been done. Hence the claim is fraudulent.

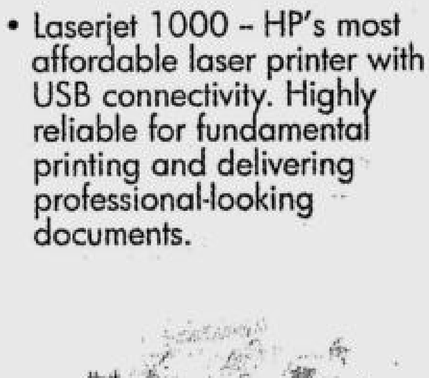
Second, this organization has failed to objectively report on the high failure rate of condoms, which can range between 10 and 30 percent depending on studies consulted. Condom breakage and slippage during intercourse contribute to this high, life-threatening figure. Even when there is 100-percent condom use between married couples, one of whom is HIV positive, researchers have reported a transfer of the virus from the infected to the non-infected spouse. How can the Catholics for Free Choice pretend that failure rates such as these constitute "safe" sex?

The only certain options are chastity before marriage, fidelity within marriage and abstinence if one is infected with the AIDS virus. Claims to the contrary are scientific nonsense.

—JOHN WILKS, consultant pharmacist, Seven Hills Pharmacy, 1/36 Johnson Ave., Seven Hills, NSW Australia

3 years, no tears!





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Senators should stick to lawmaking

COURTS have the authority to allow an accused to travel abroad. The determination of the validity of the reasons raised for such travel is a purely judicial function.

The last time I looked, there was separation of powers in this country. Lately, it looks as if there is none. Our own government officials who are supposed to observe and guard that are the very first ones advocating its violation. It is galling to read about 19 senators passing a resolution endorsing to Malacañang permission for plunder king Joseph Estrada to travel abroad for knee surgery. This is clearly a violation of the principle of separation of powers. The resolution passed by the senators is a serious excursion into forbidden territory. The resolution not only disregards the jurisdiction and authority of the Sandiganbayan over the subject matter but is obviously an attempt by the 19 senators to substitute their judgment for that of the Sandiganbayan's.

To say the least, such a resolution is deplorable. Can we next expect the senators to pass resolutions compelling the government to enter into compromise agreements with the Marcoses? Is a resolution from the senators endorsing the dismissal of Sandiganbayan cases against Marcos cronies far behind? Is a resolution asking the Sandiganbayan to clear Estrada forthcoming? These queries flow as a necessary consequence of the resolution just passed by 19 senators.

Please do not liken Estrada's situation to that of Sen. Ninoy Aquino's during Marcos' time. Aquino was incarcerated by Marcos for the former's political standing and beliefs that jeopardized Marcos' rule; Estrada is under detention for plunder charges. Aquino's heart ailment was life-threatening; Estrada's knees, obviously overworked on you know what, do not threaten his life.

Lastly, may I please remind our senators to just stick to their jobs and to leave the Sandiganbayan alone in discharging its duties. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, most of you have been playing too much politics. Stop now and get back to work. People elected you and pay for your salaries and allowances because they expect you to do just that.

—FRANCISCO I CHAVEZ, 7th Floor, Kalaw-Ledesma Condominium, 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

Is anyone monitoring our TV fare?

THE MOVIE, Television Review and Classification Board, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas and the National Telecommunications Commission should wake up from their deep slumber and crack the whip on notorious television stations which exhibit vulgar, indecent and lewed performances.

These days people no longer have to go to the nightclubs and watch wild and indecent numbers. They only need to open the TV and bingo, they are there for free.

On Feb. 16, "Eat Bulaga," aired over GMA-7, presented a number of bold stars scantily dressed and dancing seductively on a table to the tune of "Stupid Love." Is "Eat Bulaga" now operating a beerhouse?

Likewise, the noon time show has regular women dancers who perform outrageous dance numbers.

On Dec. 30, 2001 at "SOP," Rica Peralejo, in skimpy and revealing two-piece attire, was hot and sizzling on the dance floor.

In the opening ceremonies of the Philippine Basketball Association recently, aired over IBC-13, paraded were women in bikinis enjoying their dance numbers and waving the PBA flag. Paging PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, sports should encourage the youth to be involved in healthy competition and not in obscenity.

This is not the first time the PBA offered its viewers scandalous performances. Time and again bold stars in revealing outfits are given the red carpet during intermission numbers.

ABS-CBN is spearheading the cause for "Bantay Bata," but some of its programs like "MTB" and "ASAP" are anti-children because their performers wear disgusting costumes and act like wild beasts.

I wrote the chair of the MTRCB twice last year and the NTC last January and complained about the unethical practices of these stations, but I never got a reply. It seems the MTCRB and the NTC are unreachable stars that never practice what they preach.

—ALDO P. FILOMENO, spokesperson, Philippine Alliance Against Pornography, 45 Mahogany, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan

What happened to Club Intramuros?

CLUB Intramuros is one of Manila's bright spots. However, the periphery of this well-secured golf course, bounded by Bonifacio Drive and Padre Burgos Street has become a haven for vagrants, street urchins, vendors and migrants from the provinces.

Aside from its unkempt surroundings, the once beautified and well-lighted promenade is now a thing of the past. Even the impressive Gomburza monument in front of the National Museum is ill maintained and neglected.

Calling the attention of Mayor Lito Atienza and the National Parks Development Authority. They should rehabilitate this promenade for the benefit of Metro Manilans and all visitors.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR., 6737 Taylo St., Makati City

Speeding up release of papers for new vehicles

AL Mendoza said in his Feb. 14 column in the Motoring section that the Land Transportation Office has been snail-like when it comes to releasing the papers of newly bought vehicles.

He wondered whether red tape has something to do with the alleged delay in the processing of the certificates of registration, plate numbers and windshield stickers of new vehicles.

We share Mendoza's concerns. As the mother unit of the LTO, the Department of Transportation and Communication will always find ways to avoid red tape and other bureaucratic bottlenecks in order to hasten its service.

Recently, the DOTC entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) to speed up service and uncover irregularities in the department and its attached agencies.

Just as the computerization program at the LTO was designed to fast-track the issuance of driver's licenses, so has the LTO been instructed to speed up all other transactions, including the prompt issuance of papers for new vehicles.

—RAMON CUYCO, spokesperson, Department of Transportation and Communication, The Columbia Tower, Barangay Wack-Wack, Ortigas Avenue, 1555 Mandaluyong City

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

100 terrorists are in US, says senator

WASHINGTON—At least 100 al-Qaida operatives are inside the United States and pose the most immediate threat of a fresh terrorist attack on US soil, the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee said Saturday.

"There are 100 or more al-Qaida operatives inside the United States, some of whom have been here for a considerable period of time," Sen. Bob Graham of Florida said on the CNN program "Novak, Hunt and Shields."

All have been trained "to carry out terrorist plots when they were called upon to do so," said Graham, who receives regular intelligence briefings from the CIA and the FBI.

"That probably is the most immediate threat of a terrorist attack against the United States."

Other international terrorist organizations also have agents inside the United States, Graham added, without elaborating.

Asked to confirm Graham's statement, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation declined to comment.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the high state of alert in the United States remains unchanged.

Earlier this month the US government issued its fifth alert since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, warning law enforcement and the general public that terrorists could strike again.

The Feb. 11 warning was the most specific yet, stating that a Yemeni national was believed to be planning an attack in the United States or against US interests in the country of Yemen "on or around" Feb. 12.

The intelligence was gathered in Afghanistan and in interviews of Taliban or al-Qaida detainees transferred to the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the FBI said in a statement.

No attack materialized on Feb. 12.

Graham said Congress would shortly begin a joint investigation into possible intelligence failures leading up to the September attacks, when 19 men were able simultaneously to board four commercial airliners at US airports and turn them into guided missiles.

"I think the American people deserve and should demand at some point that there be a comprehensive review of what happened before, on and after Sept. 11, and I think that time is now," Graham said. ***AFP***

US thinks Bin Laden alive on Afghan border, says NYT

NEW YORK—Osama bin Laden survived US bombing raids on Tora Bora and other mountainous Afghan regions and probably remains hidden in the remote terrain straddling Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, the New York Times reported on Sunday, citing senior Bush administration officials.

The Times reported that unidentified senior administration officials said they have new indications that the Saudi-born extremist blamed by the United States for the Sept. 11 attacks remains at large in the border area. The evidence casts doubt on earlier theories that Bin Laden had been killed in the war, died of kidney disease or fled to Iran or Yemen. ***Reuters***

Israel may lift Arafat blockade amid violence

JERUSALEM—After one of the bloodiest weeks in the 17-month intifada, the Israeli cabinet was to meet Sunday to discuss lifting the 11-week-old house arrest imposed on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

A senior Israeli official said Saturday the cabinet would discuss how to handle Arafat, after the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the army to show "restraint" in a bid to allow the Palestinians to crack down on militants.

The Palestinians have argued that restrictions on Arafat—under house arrest on the West Bank since Dec. 3—and the Palestinian Authority as a whole have hampered efforts to hunt down those responsible for anti-Israeli attacks.

The Cabinet meeting comes after about 70 people died in one of the deadliest weeks since the start of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000. More than 1,270 people have died since the launch of the uprising.

Palestinian guerrilla-style attacks, focusing on troops in the occupied territories, were met with a crushing Israeli response by air, land and sea.

Saturday was no different, when Israeli soldiers shot dead an unarmed Palestinian in the West Bank and wounded at least 19 others in clashes in the Gaza Strip.

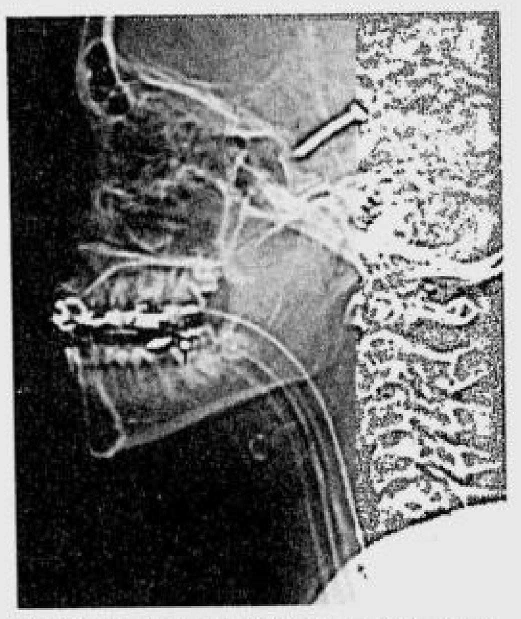
Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer has ordered the army to "show restraint" on Palestinian-controlled land, public radio said, but the army refused to say how long the order would be applied, or whether it would refrain from assassinating wanted suspected militants.

The order came at a time of religious sensitivity, during the important Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha and two days ahead of the festive Jewish holiday of Purim.

Israeli security sources said the call for restraint was a result of a weekend meeting between Ben Eliezer, Gaza Strip preventive security chief Mohammed Dahlan and Mohammed Rashid, an advisor to Arafat.

Arafat remains under virtual house arrest in his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, but public radio reported that Ben Eliezer and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres supported an end to his confinement.

A senior Israeli official close to Sharon said on Saturday, however, that Arafat would have to arrest one more militant connected to the assassination of Israeli tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi before he would be granted freedom of movement. ***AFP***



AN X-RAY shows a nail embedded in the brain of an Israeli wounded in a suicide bombing, Feb. 16, in the West Bank Jewish settlement Karnei Shomron. Palestinian bombers pack screws and nails into their devices for deadly effect. REUTERS

Tragic lovers return to poison hill

By David Brunnstrom

TUOL SLENG, Cambodia—Twenty-five years ago a young Cambodian couple, separated by revolution but very much in love, were taken to a Khmer Rouge political prison, tortured for months, then clubbed to death in a killing field.

Their "crime" had been to write love letters to each other that were taken by a paranoid security service to be evidence of collusion with the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Today a documentary of the tragic story of Huot Bophana and Ly Sitha made by a Cambodian-French filmmaker is being shown at the scene of their torment and is helping other Khmer Rouge victims and new generations come to terms with the brutal past.

For the past two months, "Bophana, a Cambodian Tragedy," has been showing to nearly 200 visitors a day at Tuol Sleng, a museum set up at the site of what was once called S-21, the main Khmer Rouge interrogation center between 1975 and 1979.

A visit to Tuol Sleng—literally "Poisonous Hill" or "Guilty Hill"—has always been emotionally difficult. A former high school for girls in Phnom Penh, it was known in the 1970s as "the place where people went in but never came out."

On walls of what once were classrooms are row upon row of the final photographs of many of the estimated 20,000 people brought for torture then on to death in nearby killing fields.

For the past 22 years, visitors to the museum have been able to view these traumatized faces, step inside crude bloodstained cells, and examine ghastly implements of torture.

But the human story of those who suffered remained a mystery.

Rithy Panh's 1996 documentary has changed that.

It narrates Bophana and Ly Sitha's love story through the forbidden letters that sustained them during a long separation after the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975 and began implementing their catastrophic revolution. The letters remain in the prison archive today.

It also contains Bophana's lengthy hand-written "confessions," in which she was forced to admit being a CIA agent, an assumption based on her work with a US aid agency assisting war widows before the Khmer Rouge takeover.

It is unclear if Bophana and Ly Sitha were ever reunited at Tuol Sleng, where they were kept in separate blocks. But a Khmer Rouge ledger at Tuol Sleng records that they were "officially destroyed" on the same day, March 18, 1977. She was 25 and he 27.

One of Bophana's letters shows she had given up hope of a reunion: "Although you love me so much, it is too late," she wrote. "See you in the next life, I will be waiting for you.

"I wanted to see your face before I die, I wanted to hug you before I say farewell. But you are so far away from me. I cannot see you with my eyes. I cannot call you."

It remains a stark fact that no Khmer Rouge leader has ever been punished for crimes during their rule, when 1.7 million Cambodians died of execution, disease, hunger, or overwork. The group's chief, Pol Pot, died in 1998. ***Reuters***

Colombia rebel army retreats

SAN VICENTE, Colombia—Colombia' main rebel army retreated deep into the jungle this weekend, losing a vast chunk of land to army troops and giving up an easy life of satellite TV, flashy jeeps and cold beer.

As the army seized control of an enclave previously held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the guerrillas chose to run rather than stand and fight.

They pulled out after President Andres Pastrana, angered by negligible progress in peace talks, ordered his armed forces on Wednesday to retake the Switzerland-sized enclave he had ceded to the FARC in 1998 to help along negotiations aimed at ending the 38-year-old conflict.

Over the past three years, aging FARC leaders enjoyed home comforts that most guerrilla commanders can only dream of, imposing control through the barrel of an AK-47 assault rifle.

They set up permanent camps, installed satellite TV and Internet access, and lorded it over the civilian population.

Their refrigerators were stocked with cold beer and soft drinks, they ate three square meals a day, often had beautiful women on their arms and cruised along dirt streets in air-conditioned, four-wheel drive vehicles with salsa music blaring from the sound systems.

But this weekend, they were back in the jungle, possibly returning to the clandestine camps they used for years before being handed control of the enclave.

"The guerrillas were in great shape here. Now their kingdom is over," said Higinio, a dentist in San Vicente, the largest town in the enclave, who treated a number of FARC rebels during their time here.

Carmenza Salcedo, who runs a shoe shop in San Vicente's main street, said young women rebels were among her customers.

"They sometimes came to buy shoes. They liked to make themselves pretty and elegant when they weren't on missions."

The guerrillas' return to the jungle does not mean a life of misery because their camps are practically invisible to government forces and the rebel chiefs have lived well for many years, often flying from one clandestine airstrip to another. ***Reuters***

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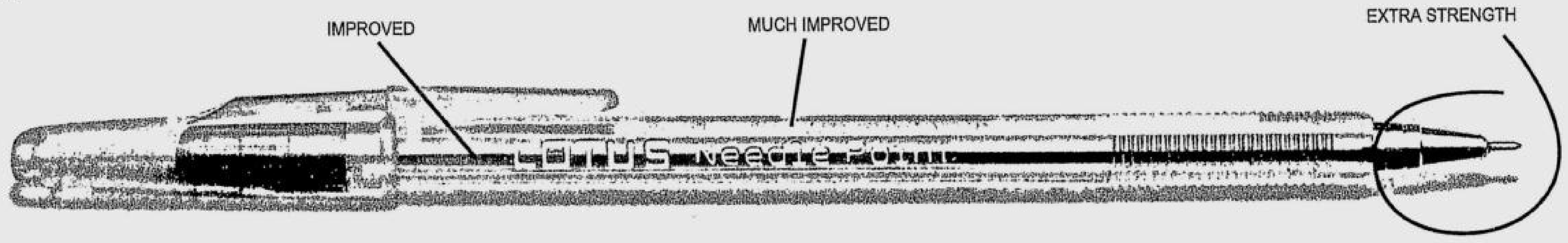

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Pakistan widens hunt for reporter's killers

KARACHI—Pakistani investigators widened their dragnet to the border with Afghanistan on Sunday in the hunt for an Islamic militant and accomplices suspected of kidnapping and brutally killing US journalist Daniel Pearl.

Residents of suspected kidnapper Amjad Hussain Farooqi's home village, known as 682/27-GB, said Hussain appeared there in January accompanied by a British-born militant, who has confessed to masterminding the reporter's abduction, and an Arabic-speaking man just days before Pearl's Jan. 23 disappearance from Karachi.

Security forces were scouring Pakistan for Hussain and his suspected accomplices Qasim (one name) and Hashmir Qadir, even as the Pakistan government refused to release a videotape that an official has said shows the 38-year-old Wall Street Journal reporter's grisly execution.

Residents of 682/27-GB in the Toba Tek Singh District of Pakistan's Punjab province, about 350 km south of Islamabad, said this week Hussain had visited there in the company of an Arab speaker and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who admitted to a Karachi court he orchestrated Pearl's abduction.

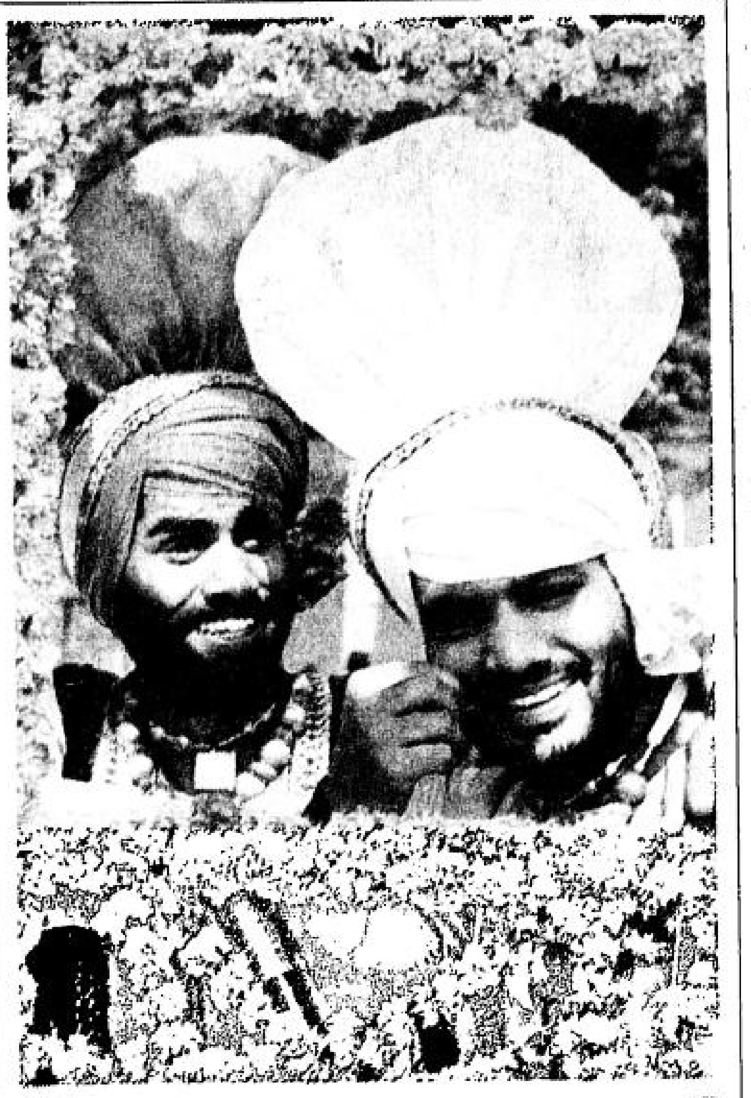
But police sources have said leads increasingly pointed to the Pakistani frontier town of Peshawar and Baluchistan province bordering Afghanistan as possible hideouts for members of the radical Islamic gang suspected of abducting and killing Pearl.

A senior government official said President Pervez Musharraf's military administration had discussed releasing the videotape of the murder but decided it was too barbaric to air.

The official told Reuters the videotape showed Pearl's throat being cut from behind while he was still talking to the camera and then his severed head in the last frame.

"It was discussed at the most senior level whether to release this video to television channels, but finally it was decided that even foreign television channels would not be able to show such gruesome scenes," the official said on Saturday.

The government also stepped up security at all US diplomatic missions and businesses, saying it could not rule out attacks following the death of Pearl, whose body police fear they may never find. *Reuters*


AFP

FLOWER PEOPLE

Two Indian men framed in flowers smile during the festival of gardens in Chandigarth, Feb. 22. India is a land of festivals which are celebrated the whole year round.

Paltry check for 4 years as Nazi slave

SALEM, Mass.—For four and a half years, Boris Abel was forced to repair airfields; build underground factories, and sleep in primitive forest prisons as a slave laborer for the Nazi regime.

Last week, Germany paid Abel for his work: $4,454.38.

"It's nothing," said Abel, 86, who moved to this seaside town north of Boston four years after the war. "But they could pay me millions and I wouldn't be satisfied."

The check, arriving 56 years after Abel was liberated from the Dachau concentration camp, is part of a German initiative to acknowledge the slave and forced labor performed for the Nazis and private companies during World War II.

The "Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future" program was established in Berlin in July 2000. As of Feb. 15, it had distributed about $956 million to 564,567 former slave and forced laborers.

The program's administrators say the amount is a "token payment, a moral acknowledgment." *AP*

Weapons-grade nuke material stolen in Russia, says US intel

WASHINGTON—An undetermined amount of weapons-grade nuclear material has been stolen in post-Communist Russia, heightening concerns that some of it could have ended up in the wrong hands, the US intelligence community has concluded.

The announcement comes amid warnings by top US officials that Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network have been making a concerted effort to obtain the know-how and materials to manufacture a crude nuclear or radiological device.

"We also believe that bin Laden was seeking to acquire or develop a nuclear device," Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet told Congress earlier this month. "Al-Qaida may be pursuing a radioactive dispersal device—what some call a 'dirty bomb.'"

In his testimony, the CIA director refrained from disclosing where al-Qaida operatives could be shopping for such technology.

But the National Intelligence Council, in its annual report to Congress, made public late Friday, gave a strong warning that despite foreign assistance and its own efforts to heighten security, Russia still represents a serious nuclear proliferation risk.

"Weapons-grade and weapons-usable nuclear materials have been stolen from some Russian institutes," said the council, the collective analytical think tank for the 13 agencies that make up the US intelligence community.

"We assess that undetected smuggling has occurred, although we do not know the extent or magnitude of such thefts," the report said. "Nevertheless, we are concerned about the total amount of material that could have been diverted over the last 10 years."

A total of 23 attempts to steal fissile materials, which can be found in Russia in more than 300 buildings at over 40 locations across the country, were uncovered and thwarted by Russian authorities between 1991 and 1999, according to the document. *AFP*

Angola displays body of Unita's Savimbi

LUANDA—The Angolan government has shown off the bullet-riddled corpse of veteran rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, confirming his death and raising hopes peace could be within reach after more than 25 years of civil conflict.

Angolan state television on Saturday broadcast pictures of the corpse of the flamboyant 67-year-old National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) leader, who waged almost non-stop war against the government after the southern African nation won independence from Portugal in 1975.

The footage of the clearly recognizable Savimbi—bearded, pockmarked with bullet holes and dressed in his battle uniform—supported government claims that he had been killed Friday in fighting with troops in eastern Moxico province.

Analysts and opponents greeted Savimbi's death as a new opportunity for peace in a country torn by decades of civil war, and some even predicted the complete collapse of the Unita rebel movement.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said through a spokesman that the rebel leader's death "has created a new situation, and he hopes that all stakeholders will take advantage of it" to move toward peace.

In Washington, the United States urged the warring parties to seek peace. US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said in a statement:

"We call upon both sides, in conjunction with the peaceful opposition, civil sectors and international community, to fulfill their obligation to bring peace to the Angolan people." *AFP*

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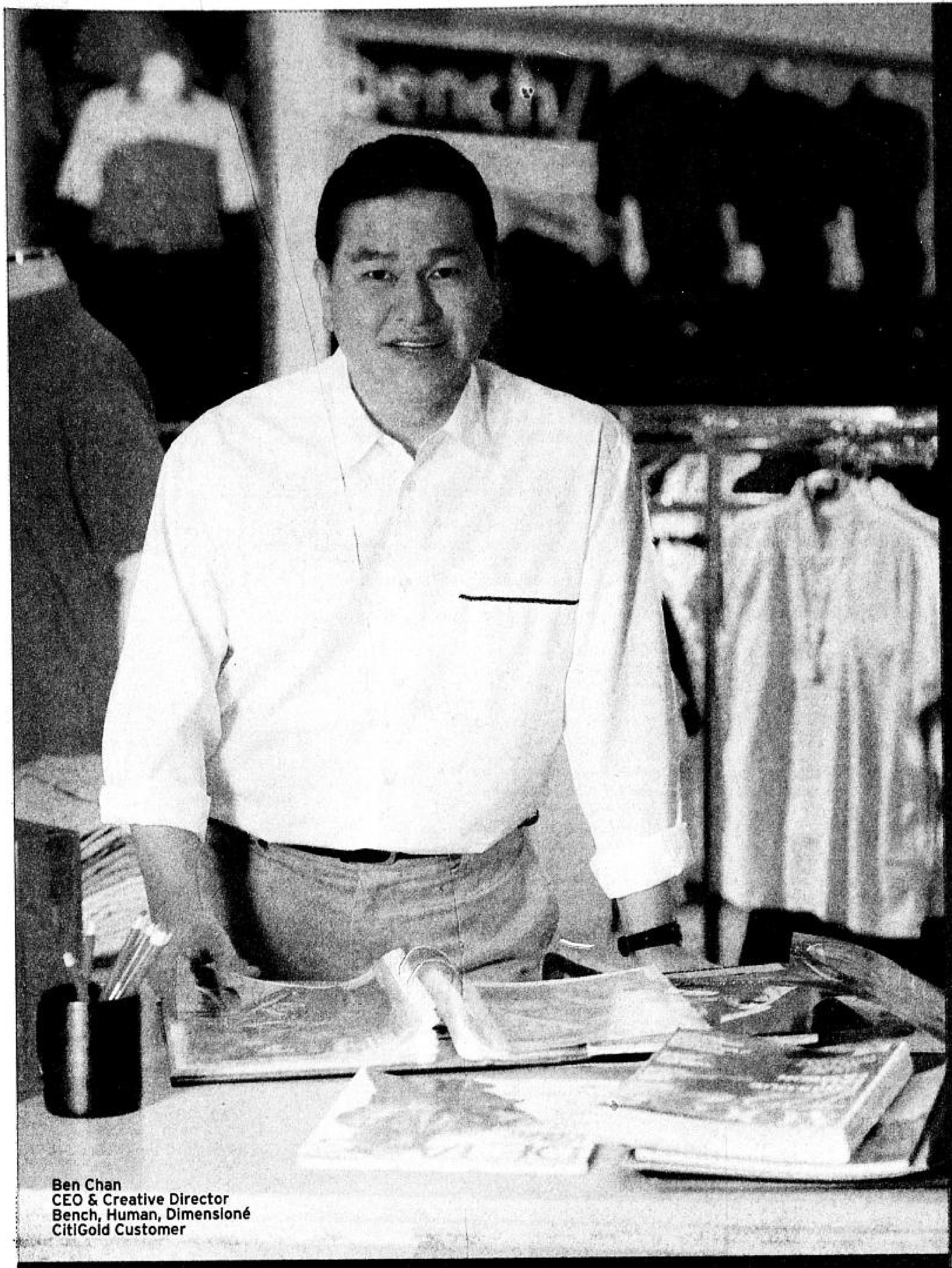

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Cult leader denies role in wife's killing

CEBU CITY—Saying he "loves his wife very much," Ruben Ecleo, supremo of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association Inc. (PBMA), denied that he had any role in the murder of his wife.

Ecleo, in his counter-affidavit submitted before the court here, said he was clueless on the whereabouts of his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo until her body was discovered on Jan. 8.

Alona's body, placed inside a garbage bag, was dumped on a roadside village in the southern Cebu town of Dalaguete, 81.5 kilometers of Cebu City. Alona was reported missing by her family in Cebu City on Jan. 6.

Ecleo said he last saw his wife at around 7 p.m. of Jan. 5 when she left their house with her brother Ben to attend a post New Year's celebration with her friends.

His house help Margie and five PBMA members who executed affidavits attached to his counter-affidavit corroborated this claim.

He said that between midnight of Jan. 5 and noon of Jan. 6, he was visiting a PBMA chapter in Barangay Nonoc, Talisay City to "heal and cure (his followers) of their illnesses."

Ecleo said he returned to his house in the afternoon of Jan. 6 and shortly left to visit a PBMA chapter at Barangay Bankal, Lapulapu City.

When he returned home on the morning of Jan. 7 he learned that Alona didn't go home. Her helper told him that maybe his wife went back to San Jose, Surigao del Norte, the base of the PBMA, as she usually did in the past.

Ecleo said he asked Margie to inquire from their followers in Surigao regarding Alona. Again after resting, he proceeded to the PBMA chapter at Libertad, Bogo, Cebu and went home in the early morning of Jan. 8, Ecleo said.

He said he became alarmed when Margie told him that Alona was not seen in San Jose.

Ecleo said he then started asking Alona's friends as to her whereabouts and likewise inquired from the Cebu City Police Station. It was then that he learned that his wife was reported missing since Jan. 6, he said.

Ecleo said he decided to leave for Surigao on Jan. 8 to personally look for Alona there. Before leaving, he said he left a note with the "chief of homicide section" informing of his whereabouts.

At San Jose he was informed that a body of a dead woman, allegedly identified as that of Alona was found and recovered at Dalaguete, Cebu. ***Suzzane Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau with report from Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

MINING FIRMS' PLEA

'Give us a chance to correct our mistakes'

MATI, Davao Oriental—"Give us a chance to correct our mistakes."

This was the collective plea of a group of mining companies, who lobbied for the approval of their mineral exploration applications in the mineral-rich coastal barangays of Pujada Bay here.

The bay was earlier named as a protected seascape and landscape.

In persuading the provincial environment and natural resources council to grant their request, the Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries Inc. or Mina asked the environment council and those they labeled as "anti-mining" non-government organizations to "give us a chance to correct our mistakes" brought about by "irresponsible mining practices" that wrought extensive and irreparable damage to the environment in many places of the country.

Mining regulator

Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil chairs the provincial environment council. It is an administrative body that regulates environmental projects in the province.

Groups opposing the entry of the mining firms have cited the 1996 Marinduque mining disaster, where residents are still fighting the effects of the poison that spilled into several bodies of water after a leak in the mine tailing pond of Placer Dome.

"The sentiments raised against our industry are probably true in one form or another. However, we are not given a chance especially by anti-mining non-government organizations to correct our mistakes. Because of the issues raised by these anti-mining NGOs against our industry, we have become transparent, we discuss and present to the public our intentions. We have increased public awareness during consultations especially if it is going into mining stage, the effects of mining operations to the community and environment," Edgar Martinez, Mina president, said in a recent meeting with the environment council.

Irritated

But while asking that mining be given a chance, Mina members were apparently irritated by opposition to their exploration activities here.

"The anti-mining NGOs that have been attacking the mineral industry without letup are being provided funds by the Ford Foundation, an end user of mineral products. They are attacking the industry that provides jobs and pay taxes to the government," Mina said in a separate statement.

Martinez said there was no basis for the NGOs' fear of environmental destruction because of today's more stringent mining regulations.

Cleanups

"In the Philippine experience, one tends to forget that mining operations are just temporary activities. As a result, the government and local community are faced with costly clean-ups and socio-economic regeneration. Mina is in the forefront to make sure that such sins will never be committed again. The new law, the Mining Act of 1995, has provisions that guarantees social and environmental protection and amelioration," he said.

Palma Gil said she was impressed with the explanations given by the mining firms.

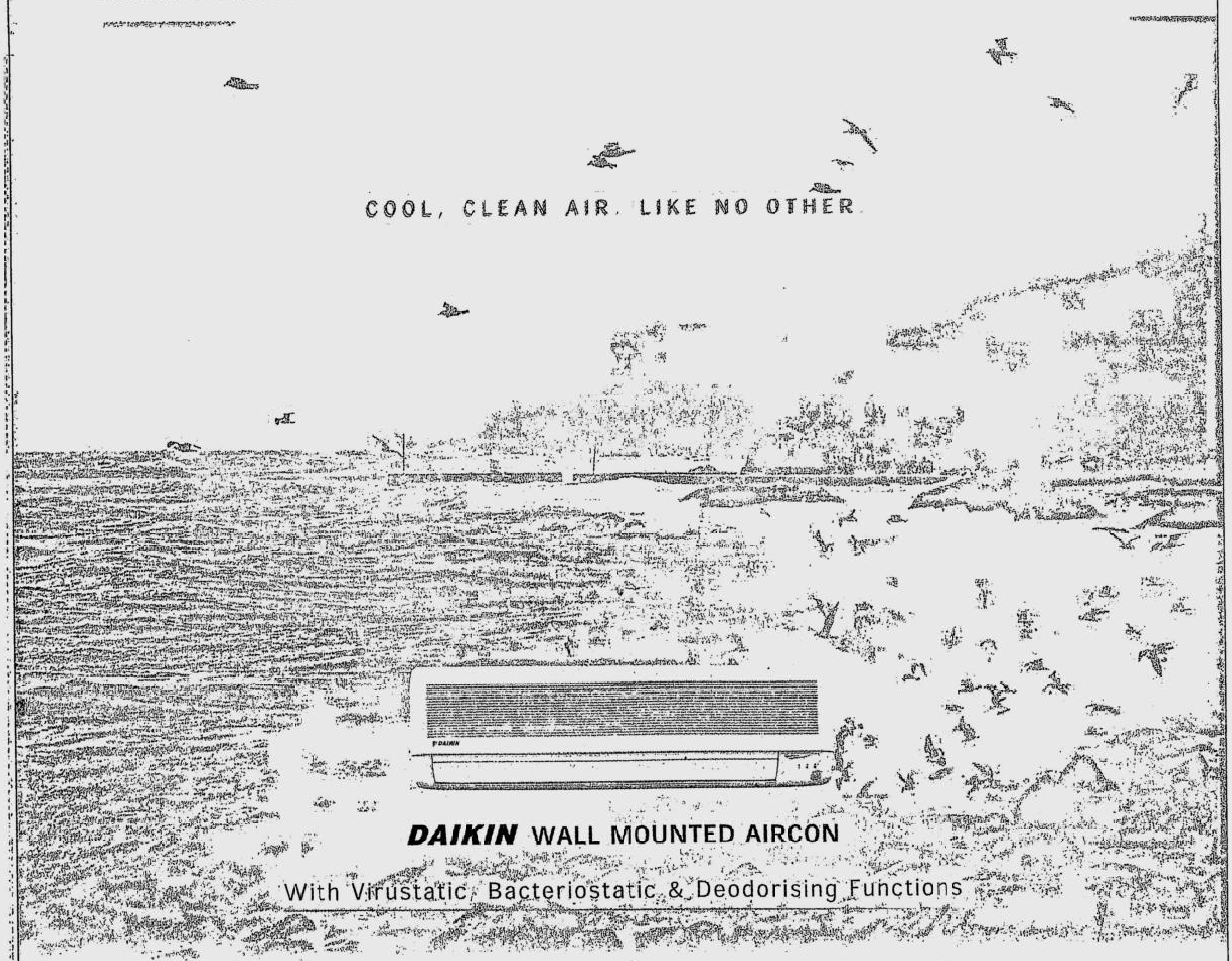
"Before, I really hate mining because of the massive destruction it wrought in many places of the country. But with your explanations, which I am very impressed, my mind is now open to it. Besides, we badly needed employment here, which you mining companies will provide," Palma Gil said during a talk with representatives of mining companies.

One mining firm, for instance, has vowed to hire at least 1,500 residents of the proposed mining sites once their operation starts.

Jobs for natives

Mandaya natives in other towns of Davao Oriental are also scrambling to sell their mineral-rich ancestral lands to multinational mining firms who promised hefty payments.

In the gold-rush town of Boston, for instance, small-scale miner Mandaya natives are selling their mining rights to multinational mining companies at P3 million for a 20-hectare area. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***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Cyanide destroys seaweed plantation

CYANIDE poisoning has destroyed a multimillion-peso seaweed plantation owned and being run by a cooperative in Puerto Princesa City.

In a statement, Bantay Puerto Foundation, a non-government environmental watchdog group in Puerto Princesa City, said a report submitted by Ambrocio Maratas, Barangay Tagburos chief, and village guard Datibo Orehuela, confirmed the destruction of the seaweed plantation.

The two village officials investigated the destruction of the cooperative's plantation by the illegal use of cyanide.

Antonio Romasanta, Bantay Puerto president, said in the statement that members of the seaweed plantation cooperative had complained to Marcos Zulueta, barangay captain of Magburos Village, about the cyanide poisoning.

Zulueta sent Maratas and Orehuela to investigate the complaint.

The statement said the cooperative members were expecting their first harvest of seaweed worth P250,000 in December last year.

Until July last year, the seaweed that the cooperative members were trying to nurture were healthy and were growing fast and were ready for harvest in five months.

But the seaweed suddenly turned white and dried up, an indication of cyanide poisoning, according to the report prepared by Maratas and Orehuela.

Cyanide is being used by illegal fishing syndicates who export live tropical fish abroad for table consumption or ornamental purposes like for display in aquariums.

The seaweed cooperative members said they invested in their plantation in Tagburos after conducting a thorough study that showed that the area was ideal for large-scale seaweed cultivation.

"We did not expect cyanide poisoning to destroy our project," a cooperative member was quoted as saying.

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❸ Carlos back cabinet, wood grain in walnut finish
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❹ Genesis GE 126 clerical desk w/ (1) GE S2 ret. Drawer
SRP P6,200/set **Now P4,960**
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40% discount

❻ SB 106 computer table
SRP P2,380 **Now P1,900**
20% discount

❼ Prism 2105 computer/study table
SRP P5,998 **Now P3,598**
40% discount

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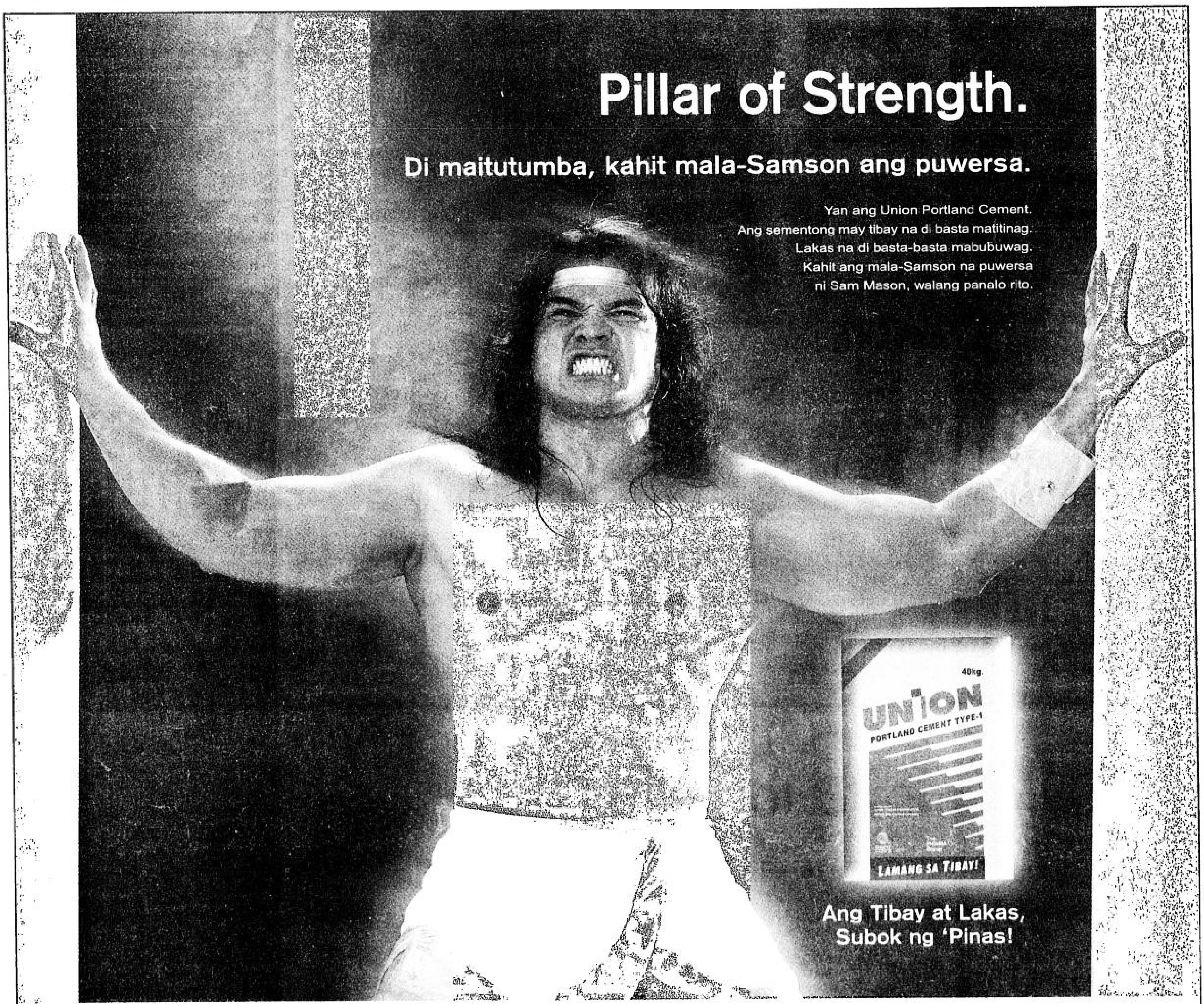
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Doing Great Things During Hard Times

Today's volatile market immediately reacts to changes caused by globalization of business, including social hurricanes like the global war on terrorism.

The new paradigm for survival is to excel in a fiercely competitive business. At stake is not only share of market but share of profit.

The squeeze on cost and revenue becomes a problem. But Chinese wisdom says problems are also opportunities.

For market leaders, survival is a minimum. Growth is the maximum.

Before 2001 came around, we defined and devised specific strategies for business during hard times.

To remain relevant and nimble, we heightened our goals by achieving creative breakthroughs across all accounts.

We probed for deeper insight into consumerism. We adopted fiscal and personnel development using the best practices in the management of the communications business. All these achievements secure our stewardship of brand equities and market leaders.

Our mindset for coping with the economic slowdown is to enhance results and service our clients in other areas of brand building.

We find fulfillment in doing hard work and pursuing excellence not only in our core competencies but through proactive tasks.

Doing great things during hard times enable us to face the challenges in 2002, in the spirit of entrepreneurship.

The results of our efforts in 2001 are heartwarming.

Finalist Agency of the Year

Exceeding expectations was the theme of the recent Agency of the Year Awards. Of the five categories, Basic became a finalist by garnering excellent scores in three categories:

Best In Market Performance

Our campaign for Alaska Sweetened Condensed Milk with Sharon Cuneta as product endorser moved the brand from a vulnerable leader to a strong leader. The strategy dramatically increased market shares and brand recall.

Our "Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain" campaign for Chowking was a home run. It not only reversed the downtrend but increased sales by 32 percent (including new stores), exceeding sales forecast.

Best In Management Of Business

Basic grew in revenue twice the average 10 percent of the industry. It also achieved excellent ratios in billings per head and profit before tax.

Our Total Quality Management (TQM) enhanced our client feedback system, driving us to improve our service ratings. In people development we sustained our Lawak Utak, Lubid team building and Chairman's creative awards programs. Our Account Planning carried out six proprietary insightful designs in consumer and media habits.

Best In Industry Leadership And Community Service

Basic fielded its top officers to play important roles in association chairmanship of 4As and the Creative Guild board. Our chairman contributed by essaying the chapter on Filipino Values in the advertising text book for communication schools.

In community service, Basic volunteers held an arts and crafts sessions for street children in Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation in Laguna. Basic is also a pro-bono contributor of communication materials for fundraising for street children.

58 Araw Awards

17th Ad Congress

In the recent Ad Congress held in Cebu City, Basic was one of the top agencies that reaped an abundant harvest across all brands and categories. It won a record total of 58 Araw Awards.

9 Golds

TV - Single Entry
1. **Dole Pineapple "Color Bars"**
2. **Namfrel "Pera o Kahon"**

Radio - Single Entry
1. **Lucky Me! Hot Chili "Tuyot"**
2. **Chowking "Inspirational"**
3. **Imodium "Santa"**

Print - Single Entry
1. **Lucky Me! Hot Chili "Flame"**
2. **Mandarin Hotel "Filipino Fan"**
3. **Goodwill Bookstore "Year of the Snake"**

POS - Single Entry
1. **Chowking "Lumpiang Shanghai"**

3 Silvers

TV - Craftsmanship
1. **Human "Poetry"**

TV - Single Entry
1. **Dole Pineapple "Color Bars"**

POS - Single Entry
1. **Mandarin Hotel "Deli"**

46 Bronzes

Various entries and many categories won bronze awards for our many clients.

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
UNILAB-Probus
UNILAB-Philhealth
CEBU PACIFIC AIR
MONDE NISSIN CORPORATION
CHOWKING FOODS CORPORATION
BANKARD (YGC) GROUP OF COMPANIES
BANKARD, INC.
NAMFREL
MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
GOODWILL BOOKSTORE, INC.
ABS-CBN FOUNDATION
JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA, INC.
CYA INDUSTRIES/GE APPLIANCES

8 More Creative Awards

2000
Breakthrough in Category
Decolgen Calendar

2001

Creative Guild

Finalists for Ad of the Year
1. **Lucky Me! Pancit Canton "Flame"**
2. **Namfrel "Bawal ang basura"**
3. **Revicon "Buntis"**
4. **Namfrel "Pera o Kahon"**
5. **Antiox "Lifeline"**

New York Festivals

Lucky Me! Pancit Canton "Flame"
Finalist

Catholic Mass Media Awards

Jollibee "143"

Proprietary Research

Deeper Connections With Consumers

Our consumers live fast-paced lives and do many tasks. Their choices are more varied than ever, requiring a novel way of reaching those "consumer moments."

Studying consumer habits must be constant, up-to-date and focused. Basic's account planning innovated studies on consumer attitude, brand role and use through the team efforts of the research director, Dr. Ned Roberto, account planners, account management, and creative directors. Notable is our pioneering research on the food sector: the Queueing Study on Quick Serve Restaurants (QSR) and the Carinderia Study.

Bakya Chronicles consists of the one-on-one interviews with mass-market respondents whose body language and facial expressions give qualitative clues to consumer sensitivities and nuances.

Dr. Roberto's "Coping Study" which measures consumer downgrading and substitution of products used during hard times, was presented to all Basic clients last year at the height of the economic slowdown.

In media, we made a breakthrough in our Billboard Effectiveness Study, TV Program Attentiveness Study and Kiddie Cartoon Viewing Habits.

3 Super Ads

Add + Impact

In a case presentation by NFO Trends in the recent Ad Congress in Cebu City, television commercials done by Basic for Unilab Probus and Lucky Me! were classified as Super Ads. The copy test design evaluates the merging of recall, attention, bonding, and purchase intent as elements in cut-through advertising. This is validated by market share increases in a postcampaign evaluation.

The Super Ads are:
1. **Revicon "Asawa"**
2. **Tiki-Tiki "Buntis"**
3. **Lucky Me! Instant Mami "Junior"**

Brand Leader Stewardship

Through its 25 years of servicing its clients, Basic has benefited from its rich heritage of market turnaround. The agency, with its mass consumer culture, has honed its expertise in forging a close relationship with the *masa* consumer—*masa* being 70 percent of the Filipino people.

We help build brand leaders for our clients. And we constantly work on brands to become formidable market leaders.

Jollibee.
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Chowking.
#1 Chinese fast food chain

Lucky Me!
#1 noodle brand

greenwich
#1 pizza chain

Goldilocks
#1 cake shop chain

DATU PUTI
#1 vinegar

ALASKA
#1 evaporated canned milk

UFC
#1 ketchup

ASCORBIC ACID CEELIN
#1 children's vitamin brand

TIKI-TIKI Plus
#1 infant's multivitamin brand

ESKINOL
#1 facial cleanser brand

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Cops thwart kidnap of doctor

COTABATO CITY—Authorities here foiled another attempt to kidnap a female physician late afternoon on Thursday.

Col. Essel Soriano, chief of the military-led anti-kidnapping Task Group Cotabato, did not identify the would-be victim.

He said unidentified gunmen have posted themselves outside the physician's clinic in the downtown area and even asked the secretary about her whereabouts.

Soriano said they received a tip about the presence of the armed men and immediately sent a team.

The armed men, however, sensed the arrival of government troops and immediately disappeared according to Soriano.

Medical practitioners, in addition to local Chinese traders, have become one of the favorite targets of kidnap-for-ransom groups here, since the 1999 abduction of a Parang, Maguindanao-based physician by the Pentagon.

Last month, the Pentagon snatched hospital owner Dr. Rosemarie Agustin. Agustin was freed after 22 days amid speculations her family paid a P5 million ransom.

The military reported she was rescued on the borders of Datu Piang and Kabuntalan towns, also in Maguindanao.

Officials of the Cotabato Medical Society said some of them continue to receive threats from kidnap groups.

This prompted them to decline night calls and to limit their movement in the city.

"(But) now is the time for the public to help our law enforcers prevent the occurrence of crimes," Soriano said. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Radio station tightens security

BUTUAN CITY—The management of the Bombo Radyo station here has tightened its security by posting 10 round-the-clock security guards in anticipation of possible violence when the city government finally decides to serve its closure order.

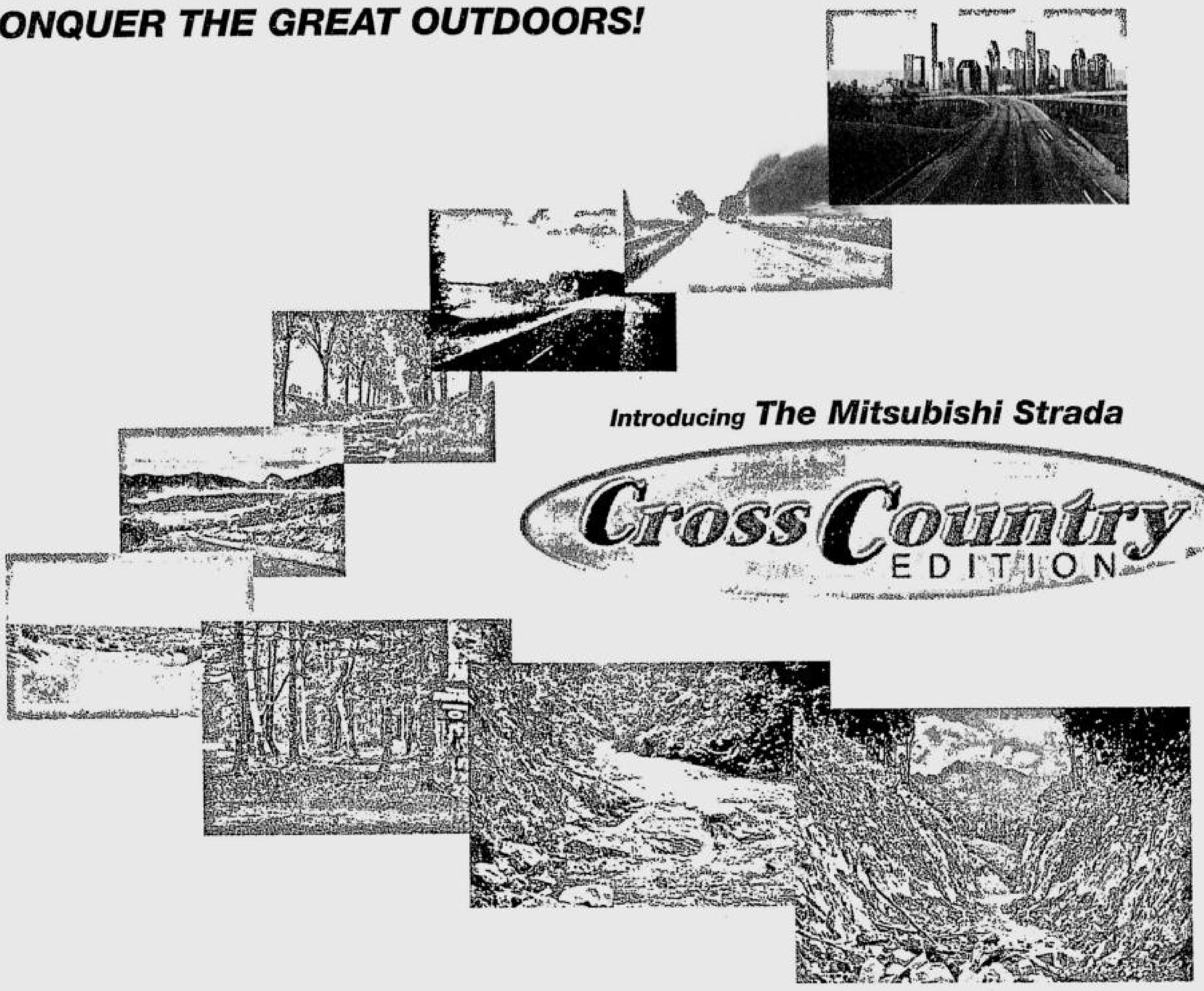
Norbert Pagaspas, radio station manager, said they were ready to defend their facilities should the city government personnel force their way inside the station.

He said the closure order must be placed only at the front gate and not inside their station.

Sources close to Mayor Daisy Plaza said the city government will seize the equipment of the station and will issue a receipt during the implementation of the closure order to stop the station from airing its programs.

Residents here have been anticipating the inevitable closure order since last week after the City Council voted for a resolution of support to the mayor's decision not to renew the mayor's permit of Bombo Radyo and to close it down.

Pagaspas, however, urged the mayor to serve the closure order and let the court decide on its merits. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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- Bumper overrider
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- Color-keyed license plate garnish
- New rear pop-out windows
- Roof rails
- Window visor
- Spoiler w/ 3rd brake lamp
- Defogger
- New integrated aluminum side stepboards
- New fender flares and door cladding

STRADA 4X4 PICK-UP STANDARD FEATURES

- Ergonomically-designed genuine leather seats
- 4-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel
- Single in-dash CD player and FM/AM tuner w/ 6 speakers
- Triple meter cluster
- Moulded door trim houses all-power control switches
- Powerful yet fuel-efficient 2.5 liter intercooled, turbocharged 4D56 diesel engine
- 5-spoke aluminum wheels
- MMAS keyless entry with anti-theft system (developed by Code Alarm)

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No. 1 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALES 2001
Based on 2001 CAMPI/TMA report

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Rights groups accuse Army of executing rebs

QUIRINO, Isabela—Human rights advocates assailed the military for allegedly violating the rights of five New People's Army rebels who were killed in an encounter in Barangay Dolores here last week.

Rey Cauilan, Karapatan-Cagayan Valley deputy secretary general and Bayan Muna regional coordinator, said their investigations showed that the five slain rebels were trying to surrender but government troopers still fired at them.

Army officials, however, dismissed the allegations of Karapatan, saying the Army soldiers gave the rebels time to surrender but they ignored their appeal and fired at the government troopers.

Cauilan said one of the slain rebels, Janet Taguba, was two months pregnant.

"She should have been given a chance to live," Cauilan said.

Aside from Taguba, those slain in the encounter were Rafael de Leon, Frankie Gelacio, Marvin Arbeso and Danilo Galan.

Karapatan officials said they are preparing charges of human rights violations against Army soldiers and officials involved in the operations. The charges will be filed before the Commission on Human Rights, Karapatan said.

Capt. Rogelio Migote, 5th Infantry Division spokesperson, said the government soldiers gave the NPA rebels time to surrender.

Chance to surrender

"No human rights violations (were committed) as the rebels were given enough chance to surrender. There was no reaction and they even fired at the soldiers," he said.

He said Army Sgt. Robert Lintad was shot and wounded while three houses were damaged in the ensuing firefight.

Ruperto Panganiban, Dolores Village chair, said Army soldiers asked his permission to patrol the village after they received reports on the presence of NPA rebels there.

The war against communist rebels has taken authorities to several fronts.

In Central Luzon, police officials had ordered the hunt stepped up for a group of former NPAs who formed their own guerrilla unit.

The officials on Tuesday ordered an intensified hunt for members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan on the heels of the group's "killing spree" that victimized policemen in Pampanga and Zambales this month.

Credit

In separate statements, the RHB, the armed wing of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, had claimed responsibility for the killing of SPO3 Apolonio Capulong in Mexico, Pampanga, on Feb. 13 and SPO2 Aquilino Manuel in Subic, Zambales, on Feb. 18.

The RHB also admitted to killing an Army soldier and wounded two policemen in Angeles City last year.

According to the statements, Capulong and Manuel were both "protectors" of illegal drug syndicates in their areas.

"Ka Milan," who claimed to be the spokesperson of the RHB South Zambales guerrilla front, said Manuel, 47, was also "punished" for harming civilians, instigating illegal arrests and leading demolitions of houses of fisherfolk families at Barangay Cawag in Subic.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police chief, said this "execution spree" by the RHB was "certainly taboo."

"We have our own system of determining and punishing scalawags in the organization. Why should they take justice in their own hands? This is not the right direction," he told the INQUIRER on Tuesday. ***Villamor Visaya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

CHILDREN in floral floats join Friday's opening of the Panagbenga Festival in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO'S 'PANAGBENGA 2002'

Festival spawns garbage, traffic jams, water loss

BAGUIO CITY—It may take some time for Baguio to weigh this trade-off.

A conservative P20-million daily revenue from the two-day opening of the Baguio Flower Festival (Panagbenga 2002) against the garbage piles strewn all over downtown, traffic jams that startled visiting motorists and virtually no water available for two-thirds of the city.

Residents and businessmen had mixed reactions during the festival's opening, which, the Department of Tourism here said, drew about 250,000 visitors on Saturday and Sunday.

Purificacion Molintas, DOT regional director, set the visitor figures based on hotel bookings and a mayor's league convention that was simultaneously conducted at the Teachers' Camp.

Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha, city deputy police director, said many of these visitors drove "in about 5,000 luxury vehicles."

Restaurants, pubs, fast food chains and beer joints ended up catering to lines of tourists following the street dancing parade on Saturday. Many establishments extended store hours till 1 a.m. Sunday.

Market stalls also sold well, finally turning around the extremely low demand of Benguet vegetables, which failed to catch visitor attention during the Christmas holidays.

But restaurant owners also had to cope with the setbacks. By midnight, a restaurant owner was observed hauling pails of water to wash his restaurant's dishes, as people stood waiting outside.

The outlying subdivisions did not get a drop of water from the already rationed water supply schedule, due apparently to the extreme demand downtown.

But what hurt the visitors most was a four-hour long traffic jam in the city on Saturday.

Pumecha said his police officers spent virtually 24 hours manning populated sections and untangling a traffic jam near Marcos Highway caused by a damaged trailer truck.

Another vehicular mishap on Naguilian Road caused traffic to halt in the city for more than an hour on Saturday, he said.

"I was caught in the middle (of traffic), and we could not get a taxi. When we finally did, we were stuck from 7 to 9 p.m. This is even worse than Manila," said a Montessori teacher from Laguna, who joined her school's excursion trip here.

Police had to wade through shouting matches between motorists throughout the night here.

Pumecha admitted that traffic finally flowed smoothly only at 10:30 p.m.

"What we are really happy about is that Baguio had remained pretty safe and secure despite this huge crowd," he said.

The militant Tongtongan ti Umili also criticized the festival.

"The trickle down effect of the income generated by the city via tourism is yet to be felt by the general public as the delivery of quality social services lags behind the quick action on infrastructure projects," said Voltaire Tupaz, Tongtongan secretary general, in a press statement.

But tourists here were generally appreciative of the festival spectacles, especially noting the floral float parade on Sunday.

Thousands of assorted fresh flowers were used in the 28 competing floats.

Mums, daisies, roses, calla lilies, everlasting chrysanthemums and orchids were used in most of the floats.

This year's floats, most of them sponsored by commercial establishments and consumer products, were smaller than the floats used in last year's festival.

Organizers said the participants spent between P50,000 and P200,000 for the fresh flowers used in the floats. ***Vincent Cabreza with reports from Alma Grace Amay, Joann Laguitao, Vida Curray and Dioanne Palao, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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ROUNDUP

NPAs attack outpost

SISON, Surigao del Norte—New People's Army rebels attacked an Army and Cafgu detachment in Barangay Mayag here. The 11 militiamen and three Army soldiers, belonging to the 20th Infantry Battalion, who were manning the detachment engaged the rebels, estimated to be about 40, in a firefight. Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said one rebel was killed in the fighting. Dagudag said soldiers recovered the body of the slain guerrilla, which was still unidentified and an M-16 rifle. ***Franklin Caliguid and Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Logging truck ambushed

COTABATO CITY—Suspected Moro rebels on Tuesday ambushed a logging truck in Matanog, Maguindanao, leaving a truck helper dead and the driver wounded. Mariano Paguntalan, 36, was driving the truck loaded with forest products from the hinterlands of Matanog when about four suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front staged the ambush about 4 a.m., a military report said. Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson immediately issued a denial on the suspected participation of MILF men in the attack. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Grenade kills 1

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya—A tricycle driver was killed while two others were injured on Tuesday when a grenade exploded in Barangay Darubba here on Tuesday. Police said Rene Julio, 23, was killed instantly when the grenade exploded as he tried to remove a wooden plank that was laid across the bridge. His brother and passenger Roderick, 25, and Ernesto Macaboras, 36, who tailed Julio on another tricycle, suffered from shrapnel wounds. In Abra, two home-made bombs planted in the car of an aide of Gov. Vicente Valera exploded in Bangued town on Thursday. Police said Jolimar Trinidad, Valera's close-in security aide, escaped unhurt but his car was wrecked. ***Melvin Gascon and Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cop, brother killed

AGLIPAY, Quirino—A policeman and his brother were shot and killed allegedly by another policeman and his brother in Barangay Ligaya here on Tuesday. Supt. Alfredo Teodoro, Quirino police director, identified the victims as PO3 John Castillo, 37, assigned at the provincial internal affairs service here, and his brother Pablo, 28, a government employee. Teodoro identified the suspects as PO3 Eduardo Batino, 37, PO3 Castillo's landlord and who is assigned at the San Juan town police in Abra, and his brother Rey, 39, a former security guard. Shortly before the shooting, PO3 Batino castigated PO3 Castillo for allowing his friends to have a drinking spree in his room, reports said. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Iloilo officials, NGOs join opposition to Erap knee treatment in US

ILOILO CITY—Government officials and militant groups in Iloilo have joined the ranks of groups opposed to the move of legislators to allow ousted President Joseph Estrada to go to the United States for treatment of his arthritic knees.

Iloilo Vice Gov. Roberto Armada said allowing the trip would only give Estrada reason to stay in the United States and evade the plunder and other cases he is facing before the Sandiganbayan.

He said legislators who have signed the resolution urging the government to allow Estrada to seek medical treatment abroad are "answerable to history and our children."

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said the proposed trip is "unnecessary," adding that he believes in the expertise of doctors in the country.

Armada and Treñas both belong to the Lakas-NUCD under the ruling administration coalition. They were among those who took part in the anti-Estrada campaign here last year led by the Ilonggo Solidarity Campaign to Remove Estrada as President (I Scrap Erap).

Allowing Estrada to travel abroad "is an insult and a gross mockery of Edsa II," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Panay chair Jeffrey Celiz.

He also lambasted President Macapagal-Arroyo for her "silence and hands-off attitude" on the issue.

"Her tolerance of the resolution shows how far she has compromised with Estrada and his minions," Celiz said. ***Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI32° Lo 22
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 10°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/25/02

BRIG. Gen. Marciano Ilagan, head of the Mactan Air Base Tactical Operations Command, rides piggyback as M/Sgt. Michael Farris wades in the waters for the ceremonial floral offering for victims of the helicopter crash. DENNIS SABANGAN

Rescuers give up on GIs

From page A1

and US Green Berets from Zamboanga City to nearby Basilan island.

The helicopter was flying in tandem with another Chinook en route from Zamboanga City to the Mactan Air Base near Cebu City.

Witnesses reported the helicopter was on fire as it fell into the sea and exploded on impact with the water. American and Philippine military officials have ruled out hostile fire as the cause of the crash.

"We have reached a difficult but necessary point in the ongoing search where we must transition from search-and-rescue operations to search-and-recovery operations," Wurster told a news conference at the headquarters of the Southern Command.

"We will do everything possible to retrieve additional items and any human remains from the search area.

"Although we have lost 10 good men—eight from the Army and two from the Air Force—we will continue with our mission. We are here to conduct a mission that the presidents of the Philippines and the United States committed to—working together to help counter terrorism in the Philippines."

Investigating team

Wurster said all items recovered would be handed to a US Army investigation team that has been dispatched from Fort Rucker, Alabama, to find out what went wrong.

He said the team would work closely with local officials.

Wurster said a memorial would be held Tuesday in Cebu. No decision has been made on whether to salvage the wreckage because of the deep water.

The Chinook was among three here for the exercise, and Wurster said he expected a replacement would be brought in.

A 660-strong US military force arrived last month for the counter-terrorism training exercise aimed at helping the Philippine military wipe out the Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse for nearly nine months in the dense jungles of Basilan. The three are the last of nearly 100 hostages snatched since last May.

More than 200 rescue workers have shifted the search to 190 km from the crash site as debris reached the open sea and dispersed in strong currents and brisk southeasterly winds, officials said Sunday.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Marciano Ilagan, head of Task Force Tulungan that is coordinating the search for the missing US servicemen, said rescue forces had covered 2,880 square km of ocean and coast.

Involved in the operations are 10 US Navy SEALs, seven US Army personnel, a P-3 Orion surveillance plane and a US C-130 transport plane.

At least three bodies have been recovered by the around-the-clock search that also includes three Philippine Navy ships, a Coast Guard vessel, six helicopters and nine motorized outriggers.

Fishermen and shipping lines have been alerted to report any debris or bodies in the open sea.

Farris, spokesperson of the US team taking part in the search operations, said he was "very impressed" by the memorial service organized by Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz for the 10 American soldiers and airmen.

"It makes me feel that Filipinos are truly interested in extending a helping hand to us," he said. ***With reports from Julie S. Alipala/ PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, AFP, and Reuters***

Edsa Shrine political, too, priest tells bishop

From page A1

spiritual worship. It is also an arena for political struggle," said Fr. Joe Dizon, spokesperson of the PlunderWatch group monitoring the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"In the first place, Bishop Villegas would have no religious shrine to tend and protect from the unwashed masses if the people did not rise up 16 years ago to do a very political thing—bring down the Marcos dictatorship," Dizon said.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan called today's Edsa rites a "sham" because of the order disallowing any political gathering at the shrine.

Bayan, the Promotion of Church People's Response and other groups said they would boycott the official rites at Edsa today and instead troop to the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard to mount an anti-Balikatan demonstration.

Dizon, a leading member of the civil society groups that came together for Edsa II, also took aim at the influential Manila archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin, and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"May we remind Cardinal Sin, Ms Macapagal and other beneficiaries of both people's uprisings that in this hallowed piece of property is enshrined two of the shining moments in the Filipino people's struggle for freedom, justice and democracy," Dizon said.

To say that politics has no place at the Edsa Shrine would be to distort history, he said, adding that those who took part in Edsa I and Edsa II were "quite aghast" at Villegas' order limiting the shrine to prayers.

On April 27 last year, in the middle of the takeover of the shrine by pro-Estrada demonstrators, Dizon had urged Cardinal Sin to issue an edict declaring the place "desecrated," in order to force the protesters to leave.

As archbishop, Sin had the right to order the temporary closure of the shrine, Dizon had said then. "(The protesters) should leave the shrine and just stay in the streets for as long as they want," he had said.

"No sector of society, however powerful or influential, can arrogate upon itself the right to decide what the people may or may not do at the Edsa Shrine," Dizon said yesterday.

Alternative commemoration

With about 5,000 participants, the alternative rites in Manila will dwarf the official rites sponsored by Malacañang, a Bayan spokesperson said.

Protest actions are also set to be held in the cities of Vigan, Baguio, Angeles, Calamba, Cebu, Bacolod, Oroquieta and Davao, and other major urban centers.

In Davao City, militants will stage "a day and night of protests."

Alvin Luque, secretary general of Bayan in Southern Mindanao, said they would stage rallies, manifesto-signing, and candle-lighting starting at 4 p.m.

"Definitely we are celebrating here People Power in a different way," he said, adding that members of the newly formed alliance Out of MindaNOW! would also start visiting communities, marketplaces, malls and other public places to gather a million signatures denouncing the presence of US troops in the country.

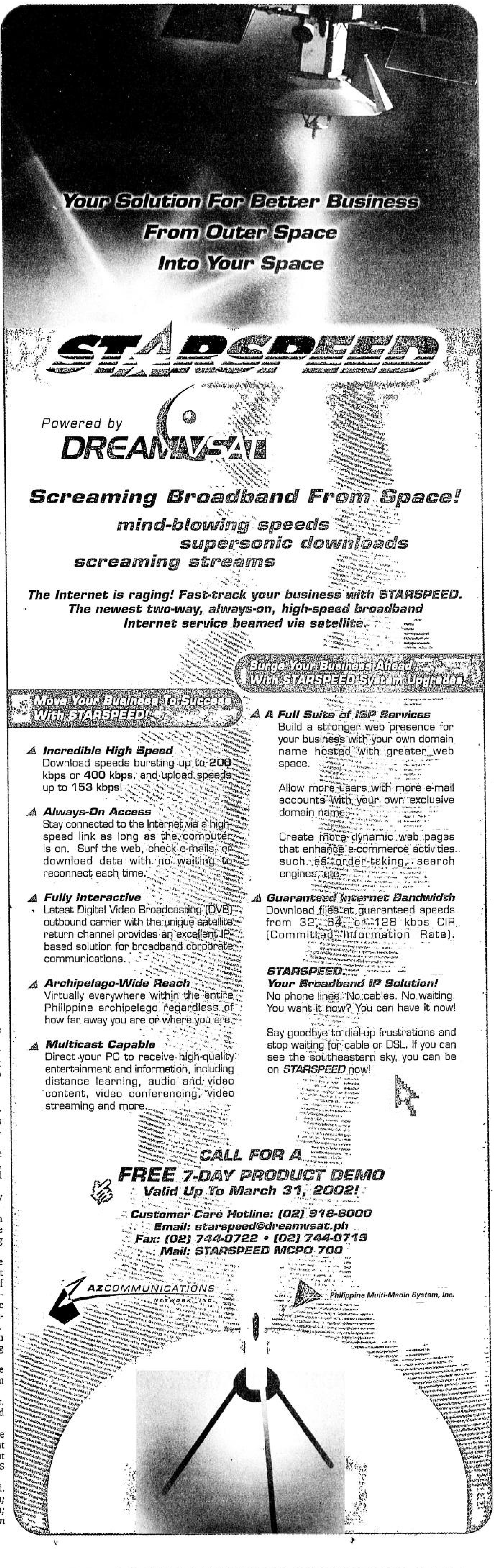
In Calamba, about 1,000 members of Bayan and allied organizations in Southern Tagalog are expected to show up at a march-rally.

To cope with possible emergencies, the Philippine National Police has been placed on nationwide alert.

According to PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Cresencio Maralit, about 5,000 policemen had been placed on alert in Metro Manila alone.

The PNP does not expect a big crowd at the official rites, he added, because the militant groups are expected to hold protest actions at Liwasang Bonifacio, Mendiola and the US Embassy.

"All these had been secured," Maralit said. ***With reports from Martin Marfil in Manila; Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



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Pro-Balikatan rally offers prayers for crash victims

From page A1

friendly American forces, for they gave their lives not for anyone else, but for Filipinos," he said. "They are here to help us, and let us not be hypocrites to say that we don't need their help."

"We support the movements against terrorism, welcome Americans and we love you Americans," Rudy Iglesias, a businessman, said. "To the leftist people in Manila, you shut up," he added.

Soldiers in full battle gear and armed with assault rifles stood guard as the people massed, chanting pro-US slogans and waving American and Philippine flags.

They carried banners that read "We support Balikatan exercises," "Thank you, America," and "We love USA."

"We welcome the Americans, we are against terrorism," rally organizer Virginia Ramos bellowed atop a makeshift stage as traffic was brought to a standstill.

Sulu Sultan Esmail Kiram said he and his followers were there to support the exercise "to remove terrorism, to remove all the nasty things that they are doing."

Kiram condemned the Abu Sayyaf and terrorism, citing passages from the Koran, Islam's holy book, saying people of different faiths can live together peacefully.

"This pro-Balikatan rally only shows there is no religious discrimination. We want the terrorism to end as this affects us very much," he added.

Prayers

Mayor Lobregat, along with the Pro-Balikatan Movement spearheaded by the Ateneo Alumni Association and Prola Pilar, led the crowd in praying during a Mass at the St. Joseph Church and at the rally.

"This rally is not only to show to our American friends that we support the Balikatan, but we would also like to extend our deepest sympathy to the American soldiers who risked their lives to help our Filipino soldiers in the fight against terrorism," she said.

US Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, who heads the US contingent in the exercises, expressed gratitude for the public support for the US forces in Zamboanga and said the prayers for those who died in the crash "mean a lot to us."

Philippine Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Wurster's co-director of the exercise, said all 160 US Special Forces soldiers were already on nearby Basilan island, where the Abu Sayyaf has been holding American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap for nearly nine months.

Teodosio said the US soldiers would need three to four days to "settle down and establish their communications equipment" and build rapport with the Filipino troops hunting the Abu Sayyaf "before they could make sorties together."

He said US and Philippine officers in Zamboanga were working on "intelligence and communications and networking training" and planning command and control roles.

"So things are moving forward and the reports are all positive," he said.

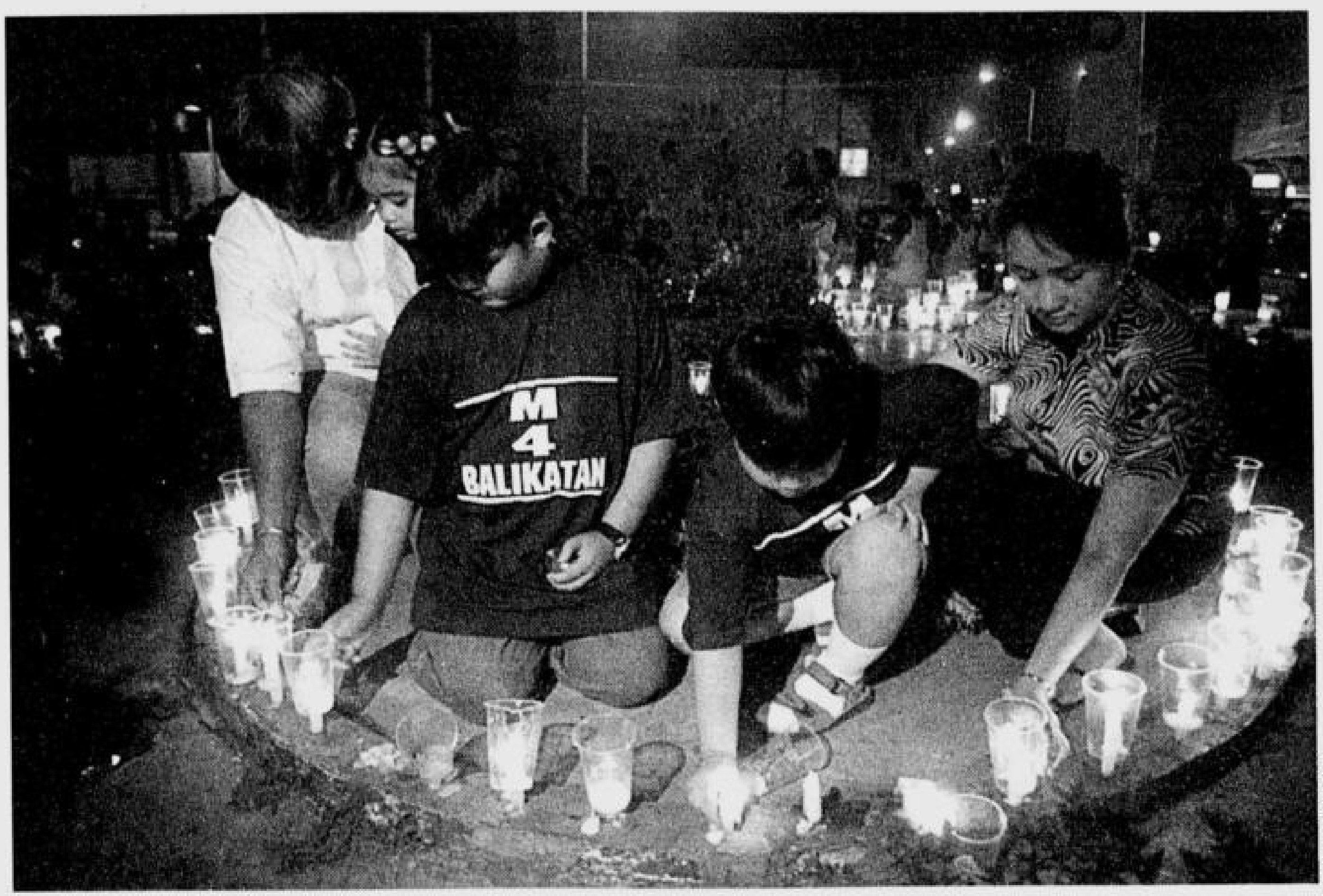
Kelly visit

In Manila, US Assistant State Secretary James Kelly paid the country a surprise visit over the weekend "to check up on the Balikatan" and give assurance of continued US commitment to the exercise despite the crash.

Kelly met President Macapagal-Arroyo at her residence at the La Vista Subdivision in Quezon City on Saturday. He previously represented US Secretary of State Collin Powell in a teleconference with Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. on the Balikatan's "terms of reference."

Ms Macapagal, for her part, "assured Kelly that things are going well, it's very organized and that she is confident that the Balikatan exercise will be successful," Tiglao said.

Also present during the meeting were Guingona, Philippine Ambassador to Washington Alberto del Rosario and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone Jr. ***With reports from Inquirer wires; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Carlito Pablo in Manila***



VAL HANDUMON

A FAMILY lights candles at a rotunda in Zamboanga City in support of the Balikatan war exercises on Saturday night.

SC justices finally OK Gloria oath

From page A1

of the street leading to the gates of the presidential palace.

Reporters at Linden Suites noted that on Friday evening, opposition Sen. Raul Roco left a conference of opposition leaders presided by the Vice President (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) to go to the Edsa Shrine. There he informed the rally that they had rejected (President Joseph) Estrada's snap election proposal. Roco was authorized to say that the opposition had decided to give Estrada until 6 a.m. to resign; otherwise, "People Power" would march to the palace.

At 4 a.m. on Saturday, Supreme Court (Associate) Justice Artemio Panganiban woke up to hear radio and TV reports that the opposition and the mass organizations had given Estrada a 6 a.m. deadline to leave the Palace. Panganiban said he learned that even (Jaime) Cardinal Sin was alarmed at the potential for violence, so he phoned Chief Justice Hilario Davide at 5:30 a.m. Davide was already in his office.

The two justices discussed the possibility of swearing in Macapagal-Arroyo at midday to avert the march and possible bloodshed. In an interview, Panganiban said he argued with the Chief Justice that "there was an extraordinary situation requiring extraordinary solution or innovative decision." Panganiban believed that only Davide could stop bloodshed by swearing in the Vice President. After discussing legal issues, Davide told Panganiban to go ahead and phone Macapagal-Arroyo.

At around 6 a.m., Panganiban rang Antonio Carpio, legal adviser to the Vice President. He told Carpio that the Chief Justice was willing to administer the oath if Estrada resigned before noon, but that if Estrada did not he would still administer the oath.

In an interview, Carpio said that at 6 p.m. on Friday, following the military crossover, he rang Panganiban to say, "Can you alert the Chief Justice for a possible oath-taking any time because there might be a resignation?" Panganiban talked with Davide, then told Carpio that the Chief Justice would administer the oath if there was a resignation. Carpio phoned Panganiban after talking with Lenny de Jesus, Estrada's housing chief (and former Presidential Management Staff chief). He told De Jesus: "Why does Estrada not just resign? Anyway, it's all over." De Jesus asked, "What are the terms?" Carpio said: "Just resign and then if you have a chance to get out, get out of the country. If he stays longer, he can't get out. So if he flies out now and leaves a letter of resignation, that would be great, but I know he will resign only if given immunity from criminal and civil liabilities."

In any case, Panganiban phoned Msgr. (and now Bishop) Socrates Villegas, spokesperson of Cardinal Sin, at 6:15 a.m. to say that Davide was willing to swear in Macapagal-Arroyo. At 6:20 a.m., Radio Veritas announced that Cardinal Sin was giving Estrada until noon to resign, otherwise the Vice President would take her oath as President.

5-day transition term

In an interview, Carpio said that after Panganiban's call, he phoned the Vice President. Macapagal-Arroyo told him that De Villa had agreed with Angara to the five-day transition.

"Anyway, you have a choice," Carpio told the Vice President. "You can take the oath now or you can do it after five days. But if you wait for five days you would lose control of the crowd and Erap might regroup." Upon hearing Villegas' announcement, Carpio phoned De Villa to say, "the Chief Justice is willing to administer the oath, with or without a resignation." De Villa replied: "This is an example of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing." De Villa said, "You know if you do this (administer the oath), the chief of staff, Angie Reyes, will abandon us because he committed to the five days." Carpio said, "Where will he go?" The assurance Angara gave De Villa that Estrada was no longer capable of mounting a counterattack did not calm strong suspicions within the opposition that Estrada was using the five days to buy time for mobilizing mass and military support.

According to Antonio C. Abaya, head of an opinion polling organization, Estrada had a meeting at around 2 a.m., Saturday—while Angara and the opposition panel were holding negotiations—with (Sen. Juan Ponce) Enrile, (legal counsel Crispin) Remulla, Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and Mayor Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa, Palawan. A witness overheard one of them say: "Mr. President, be sure we have five days. We will surround the palace with one million people." This event was promptly leaked to the opposition camp, heightening their skepticism of the transition proposal.

Violence feared

This was precisely the danger Davide and Panganiban feared. Monsignor Villegas confirmed that Panganiban had rung early in the morning, telling him that the Chief Justice "did not want violence to erupt on Mendiola." By 8 a.m. Panganiban had joined Davide at the Supreme Court. The other justices started coming. Two were out of town.

Panganiban said that the justices discussed three issues: that the Chief Justice will swear in Macapagal-Arroyo any time a vacancy occurs; that he was "very concerned about the problem of bloodshed"; and that, if by noon there would be no vacancy, he would be constrained to swear in the Vice President, "if only to prevent bloodshed."

At 9 a.m. Davide received a call from (Senate President Aquilino) Pimentel, telling him that Estrada had agreed to resign but only after five days. Panganiban asked: "What will happen in five days? This is an invitation to a coup. Who will rule in five days—Erap or Gloria. And by what authority, as a revolutionary government?"

Panganiban commented that the country could be plunged into chaos during those five days, with Estrada remaining a powerless president and Macapagal-Arroyo assuming the presidency under a revolutionary state.

Also at that time, Macapagal-Arroyo had breakfast with Cardinal Sin and (former President) Cory Aquino at Villa San Miguel, the archbishop's palace. According to a report by the Philippine Star (March 14, 2001), Sin and Aquino asked her about her plans. The Vice President said Estrada had asked for five days. Aquino said: "Take my advice, I've been there. Don't accept the five days."

Macapagal-Arroyo said there was an agreement between the two panels and she was "not used to breaking agreements." Cardinal Sin was even more emphatic than Aquino. According to Monsignor Villegas, in an article in the weekly magazine Newsbreak (Feb. 7-13, 2001), "Gloria was willing to wait for four or five days, because she didn't like to pressure Erap to step down."

Pounding on the table, the cardinal said, "Gloria, you owe the presidency to the people. And it is the people who want a new president."

No resignation letter

Then, Macapagal-Arroyo took a call from De Villa. He said the negotiations had broken down because Angara had reversed everything he had said the previous night and wanted her to write a letter praising Erap. She also received a call from (legal adviser Renato) Corona that the talks had bogged down because "there was no letter of resignation."

At that point, she decided to take her oath.

Panganiban said that Macapagal-Arroyo rang the court at around 10 a.m., saying the negotiations had "bogged down." Davide asked Panganiban to take the call. Macapagal-Arroyo said, "I would like to take you up on your offer" to swear me in at noon. "I told her that we would need a letter from her requesting the Chief Justice to swear her in," said Panganiban.

From Carpio, we learn that the Vice President asked him to write the letter. Carpio said the letter highlighted two themes: first, she was informing the Chief Justice that Estrada was incapacitated after the defection of the military and the national police, and therefore he was permanently disabled from serving out his unexpired term; and, second, she was requesting the Chief Justice to administer the oath. The letter did not request an opinion or to declare the presidency vacant.

The two-paragraph letter was faxed to the court at 11:26 a.m.—34 minutes before noon, the scheduled time for the oath taking. While waiting for the letter, the justices had a fierce debate over the constitutionality of installing her as a permanent president. Some justices questioned Davide's offer to swear her in. Other justices "were alarmed." Panganiban told us they argued that there was no constitutional basis for swearing in Macapagal. Panganiban argued that the swearing in "is an act of the Chief Justice, not the court." He quoted Davide's own reply: "Was it not better for the court to act?" Many justices were inclined toward making her take the oath as "acting president."

'Unanimous' decision

But when the letter arrived, the justices "unanimously agreed" to give Davide the authority to swear her in as president. Panganiban had underscored "Davide's concern that allowing the anti-Estrada demonstrators to storm Malacañang could lead to bloodshed." This letter was not published until weeks after her induction, and this void generated speculations over whether there was a vacancy, or there was a resignation, or she took her oath as "acting president." The oath she read did not say "acting," clearing up earlier TV reports that Davide had said she would be sworn in as "acting President."

Ching Vargas, on the staff of the Vice President, was assigned by Corona to fetch the Supreme Court justices. She described the mood in the court as follows: the Chief Justice told her that all the justices were present, except two, who were out of town, "to show their support." They had been holding a session en banc since 8 a.m. The two absent justices sent their approval by fax.

The justices were asking, "What's keeping Attorney Carpio too long?"

When the letter arrived, it was photocopied and distributed to the justices, but the copies were collected by Justice Panganiban after they had read it. One justice demurred, "permanent disability?" and then said, "*Okay na ito.*" The others said okay "in unison." Vargas asked if they were all going to Edsa. "Yes, they want to show their support," said the Chief Justice. She said the justices went to Edsa "of their own free will and I could see that they were not forced." Asked about the mood of the justices, she said, "I am very sure they were in the right frame of mind and they were not forced. The Chief Justice was a big factor. They really supported him and they wanted to show it."

Defensor: Doronila missed 'real story'

LT. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. accused INQUIRER editorial consultant and columnist Amando Doronila of missing "the real story" behind the Estrada crisis because he relied on a source who wanted to "picture Class '69 of the (Philippine Military Academy) as the bad guys."

In a letter to the editor, Defensor, the chief of the Philippine Air Force, claimed that the excerpt from Doronila's new book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," which the INQUIRER published last Saturday, "showed a lot of inaccuracies, probably as a result of a struggle between sense and reason."

"It is easy to see that there is an effort to picture Class '69 of the PMA as the bad guys and make others the heroes. The source of the account, who finds safety in anonymity, even finds it convenient to include a deceased person, who cannot clarify or confirm the information. That 'witness' should be reminded that to err is human but to talk falsely is politics," the letter read.

In the excerpt (the third in a series of five), Defensor and then Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong were described as twice attempting to convince then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes to set up a junta, instead of ensuring a transition from Estrada to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his letter, Defensor did not categorically deny the two attempts, only alleging that the source used was biased against his class. He signed the letter as president of the PMA Class '69.

John Nery

Too much people power bad, say ex-Presidents

From page A1

According to the former military chief, the people should instead leave the task to political institutions in accordance with the Constitution and allow democracy to mature.

Since Ramos helped end 20 years of Marcos dictatorship and reintroduce democracy in the Philippines during the Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986, there have been two more popular uprisings against the country's presidents. The rallying point for the three massive protests was at the busy Edsa Highway in Metro Manila.

"I don't think there should be another momentous event like Edsa I or Edsa II," Ramos said on the eve of the 16th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

He also helped engineer Edsa II in January 2001 that ousted President Joseph Estrada whose two-and-a-half-year administration was tainted with corruption.

The so-called Edsa Tres, which broke out four months later, involved mostly Estrada supporters who stormed Malacañang but failed to unseat their idol's successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We cannot depend on a (certain) cycle called People Power Revolution. Besides some of us may not be there any more in the next round," he added.

Ramos, who has taken the self-imposed role of elder statesman after serving out his six-year presidential term in 1998, said "what we Filipinos have to do is to strengthen our democratic institutions that will lead to sustainable development and peace and security."

Aquino, whose husband's assassination in 1983 sparked the first people power revolt that swept her to power, aired a similar view.

"We have used people power once too often to oust erring presidents," Aquino said at a weekend function to commemorate the historic event. "Let us not make a habit of this."

While the people power movement should make sure that whoever was put in power was deserving of the presidency, she said it should be mobilized for another important cause—eradicating poverty that afflicts 40 percent of the 77 million Filipinos.

Ramos, who has rejected talk about his possible political comeback, said Filipinos should regard past revolts "as an opportunity to renew their commitment to democracy, to freedom, to human dignity."

AFP

NBA results

Dallas 111, Sacramento 97; Orlando 105, Philadelphia 87; Indiana 106, LA Clippers 88; Miami 97, Washington 95; Chicago 105, Golden State 91; Houston 99, Boston 89; Minnesota 112, San Antonio 88; Portland 101, Denver 90.

Reuters

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Texas vs Oklahoma at 8 a.m. (r – midnight) on ESPN

This Week in the NBA at 12:30 p.m. on CNN

POOL: Mosconi Cup 2001 at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

World Pool League 2001 tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

WACK WACK, NEGROS SHINE

Luisita wins PAL Interclub Seniors

By Al S. Mendoza

LUCIO Yan shines anew for Luisita with 45 points in the deciding round. JESS YUSON

BACOLOD CITY—Luisita made it three in a row in the PAL Seniors Interclub yesterday even as Wack Wack won the Founders Division in runaway fashion.

Luisita also sped to a huge winning margin in capturing its 10th victory in 16 editions of the fabled series for 55-year-old and above golfers.

"The guys once again played with intensity," said Rudy Samson, Luisita team manager. "Before they teed off, all I did was to remind them to again give it their best shots. And, what do you know, they delivered."

In a stirring finish, all of Luisita's 8 players scored in the 40s, with Richie Garcia and Alex Montelibano topscoring with 48 points apiece. A birdie carries 4 points, par 3, bogey 2 and double bogey 1.

Lucio Yan, Luisita's mainstay through the years, fired 45 points like Silay City Mayor Carlo Gamban and Alfonso Marcelo. Not counted were the 41 of Cesar Muñoz and the 40s Alan Gaston and King Sumulong.

The Sweeties of Tarlac assembled 231 yesterday in a huge follow-up to their 236 for 467, 24 points up on runner-up Alabang (223-215=443).

Alabang's bets were Edwin Arcilla (48-44), Jun Belicena (38-40), Jose Cervantes (43-38), Carlos Coscolluela (47-45), Rene Garovillo (41-42), Seng Yo Kato (40-44), Gilbert Martires (37-45) and Fado Roque (44-37).

Third was Villamor (206-206=412), the champion in 1989, 1990, 1995 and 1996. Fourth was Cebu Country Club, fifth Veterans, sixth Sienna, seventh Victorias, eighth Golfinos, ninth Moffet and 10th Fil-Oz.

Luisita's victory set the Tarlac parbusters for a fourth crown next year in Cebu City. The last time they scored a "fourward" was in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 in the tournament that began in 1987.

Wack Wack's 212 yesterday gave them a winning 430 total in the Founders, beating Manila Southwoods (199-209=408) and third-place Manila Golf Club.

Wack Wack was led by Bryan Cockrel (49-43), Alex Sison (43-46), Pablo Soon (42-39), Andres Co (44-39), Luisito Figueroa (46-38), Danilo Tamayo (43-35), Taira Takanubo (32-41) and Dominador Jacinto (30-43).

Southwoods banked on Ben Borja (42-42), Federico Carandang (40-42), Onda Takeshi (41-44), Ben del Rosario (38-43), Virgilio Domingo (36-38), Virgilio David (36-35), Edgardo Cataquis (28-36) and Sotero Mapalo (38-).

The big gunners of Manila Golf (204-201=405) were Alex Prieto (47-44), Joseph Lubus (43-41), Earl McCarthy (41-45), Joey Stevens (39-34), Gary Braeger (32-23), Macario Rufino (26-27) Mike Prieto (-37) and Jose Tanjangco Jr. (34-)

Riviera (198-204=402) was fourth in the Founders, followed by Pueblo de Oro (199-197=396), Club Intramuros (194-194=388), Apo (201-174=375), Camp Aguinaldo (197-171=368), Lanang (196-169=365), Club Filipino (180-175=355), U.P. Tee Jots (178-171=349) and Heritage (152-147=209).

Negros Occidental GCC topped Friendship with 208-203=411, followed by Fil-Am SFO (203-202=405), Iloilo (198-195=393), Iligan (172-189=361) and Rancho Palos Verdes (192-168=360).

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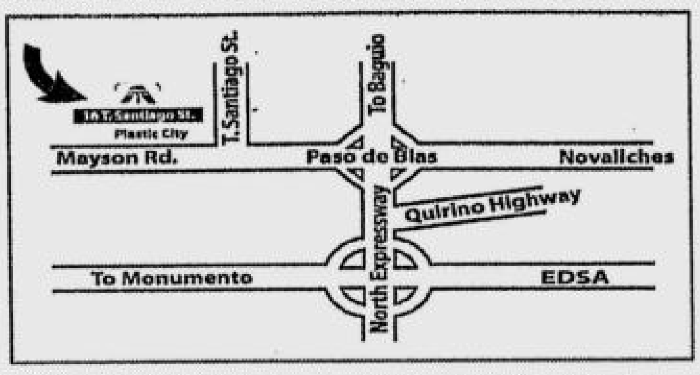

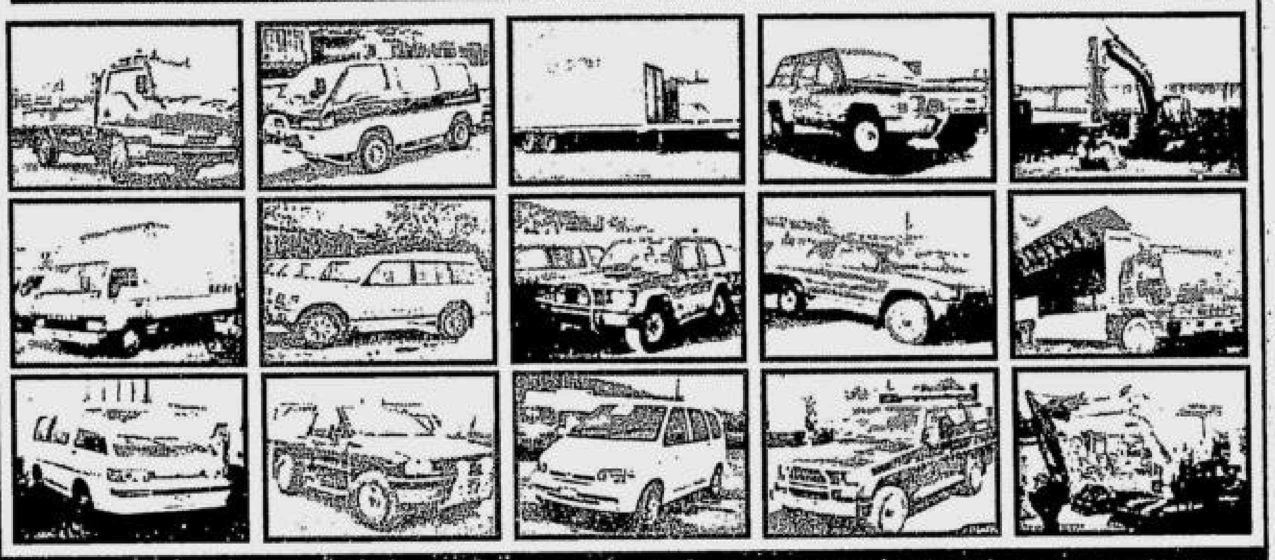

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Honoring Henry

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—I have a proposal for the guys running the PAL Interclub Golf.

Why not revive the PAL Ladies Interclub? Also, why not include the country's junior golfers in your golf program?

I thought of this because it would surely complete the cycle. I mean, if PAL could put up a yearly tournament both for the nation's young men and senior citizens, why not also a competition for our ladies and the juniors.

I know the PAL Ladies conked out years back because of the supposed lack of participants. But then, times have changed. I can now see a lot of ladies playing golf. In the Southern Ladies Open alone some two weeks back in Cagayan de Oro City, there was some sort of a record field entered there.

And why not also target the junior golfers?

Hey, if PAL wants to involve itself in sports development—golf in particular—what could be a better way to show it than by embracing the junior golf program.

The ongoing PAL Interclub series ending on March 2 (male seniors and regular men) is fine.

Now if we will finally restage the PAL Ladies Interclub and likewise start the PAL Junior Interclub, we can hold both in May—that time of year when our junior golfers are out of school.

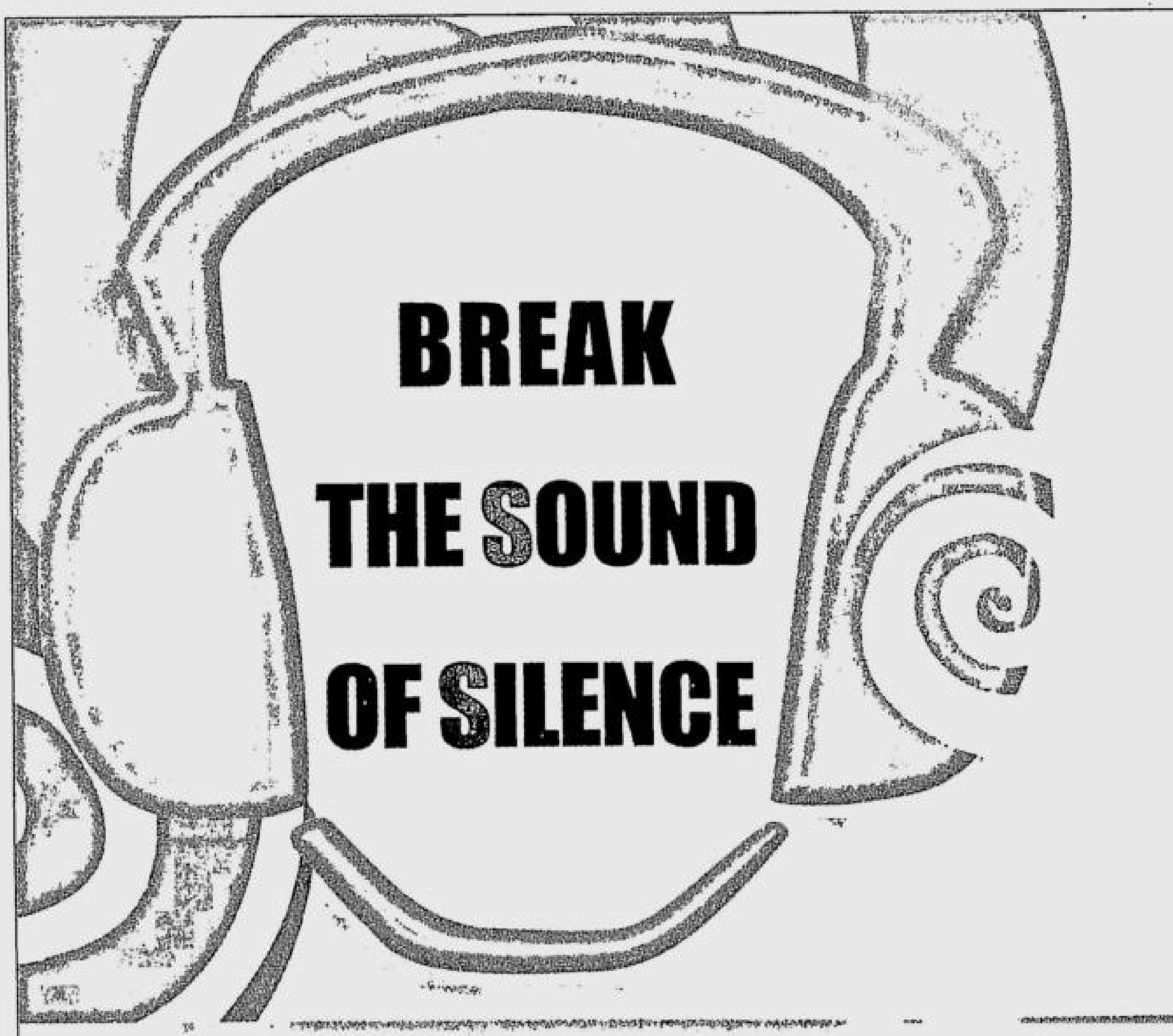
Two major PAL golf tournaments in one year—one for maintaining tradition and the other for starting a junior golf development program—would be a smash hit.

I was only a flight ahead of PAL hotshot Henry So-Uy yesterday during a round at Marapara. Each time our paths crossed, I always felt the urge to broach up the idea. But hounding Henry with it while he was enjoying a day awash with sunshine would have been improper.

So, frankly now Henry, what do you think?

■

My gratitude once more to Rollie Estabillo's gallant men and women manning the Press Center of the 55th PAL Interclub here. Because of them, our daily work is made easier by the minute of the day. Take a bow dolls and fellas: Jun Canton, Eugene Labadan, Lito Hibo, Bobby Toriano, Chary Benavidez and Pinky Mag-iba.



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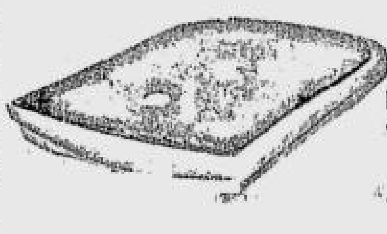

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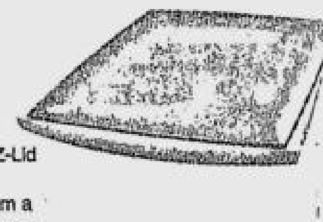

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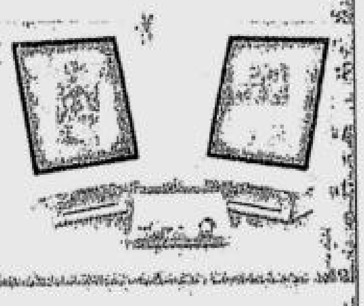

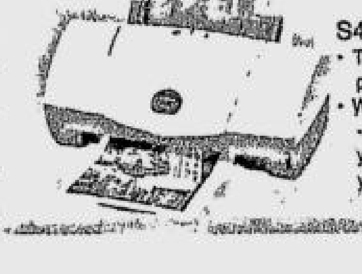

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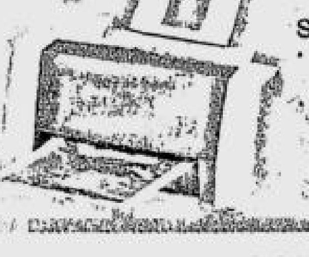

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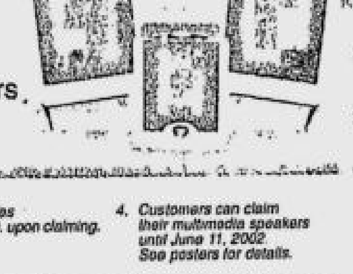

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San Agustin netters dominate opponents

COLEGIO de San Agustin pocketed the boys' and girls' grade school titles yesterday in the first Philta Team Tennis Champipnships at the Rizal Memorial tennis Center.

CSA outclassed Ateneo de Manila, 3-0, courtesy of Kyle Dandan's 6-1, 6-3 victory over Christian Canlas in the first singles; Bryan Dayleg and Dandan's 6-0, 6-2 doubles win over Daniel Luis Macalino and Canlas; and Paul James Cang's 7-5, 7-5 triumph over Mark Balce in the second singles.

In the girls division, CSA demolished St. Benedict College, 3-0, after Jessica Agra defeated Isobelle Culaba, 6-0, 6-1; Sarah Jane Lim and Agra won by default over Lunette Soldivillo and Culaba; and Mia Estrella beat Jennifer Matias, 6-2, 6-3.

Second place honors went to DLS-Zobel's team of Melissa Orteza, Hannah Enriquez, Camille Livelo, Jean Dacumos, Samantha Nierra, Nicole Noriega and Isabel Domingo.

In the high school category, St. Benedict College downed DLS-Zobel, 2-1, for the girls title. Denise Culaba took the first singles over Aysa Soriano, 7-6 (3), 6-2 and Carmela Espares and Zarri Dalin conquered Maxine Abrogar and Angela Domingo in the doubles, 7-5, 6-4. DLS-Zobel's Stef Cruz won the second singles over Jessica Occena, 6-1, 6-0.

Cavite bet gains semis

IMUS—Club bet Gilbert Alza downed John Allan Quinatadcan 6-3; 4-6, 7-5, to complete the semifinal cast in the boys' 12-under division yesterday in the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Imus Tennis Club.

Alza tangles with bellboy Jason Pasamba, while Rodel Navarro takes on Erwin Tamayo for their respective championship quests in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW group and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids.

In the girls' 12-under class, Mizraim Bilugan whipped Irina Quinatadcan 6-2, 6-3 and will meet favored Julie Em Botor in a last 4 encounter, while the lower bracket pits Chynna Mamawal, a 6-1, 6-2 victor past Sunshine Delgado, trade strokes with Zhane Quitara.

SAMSUNG CUP

Hotdogs, Thunder share lead

By June Navarro

Game Tomorrow (Cuneta Astrodome)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Hapee-RP Team

LENARD White finished off what Derrick Brown had started as Purefoods earned a hard-fought 79-74 victory over Alaska and a share of the lead with Batang Red Bull last night at the Philsports Arena.

Batang Red Bull clobbered Selecta-RP Team, 80-69, in the second game to join the Hotdogs atop the leaderboard.

Jimwell Torion made two crucial steals while Joe Bunn, Willie Miller and Lordy Tugade turned on the heat in the final two minutes to send the Nationals to their second straight setback in a tie with Federal Express and Shell at 1-2.

White, a 6-foot-5, 220-lb inside worker, completed a dunk off a steal and a pivotal rebound in the dying moments as the Hotdogs went on to tally a 3-0 record.

White's fantastic deeds preserved the remarkable stunts of Derrick Brown, who singlehandedly carried the Hotdogs at the start by scoring 25 of his game-high 28 points in the first 20 minutes.

Brown also had 10 rebounds and 5 assists to go along with White's 13 points and seven rebounds.

But as Brown's strength tapered off in the second half, Rey Evangelista, Ronnie Magsanoc and Alvin Patrimonio provided the Hotdogs the needed shot in the arm as they kept the Aces at bay.

"The locals did a good job of taking the responsibility from the imports at a time when Brown and White were off. It took much of the load from the imports which saved us a lot of energy in the end," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after inflicting the Aces their first defeat in three starts.

White, indeed, saved a lot of energy amid an exchange of three-pointers that transpired at the beginning of the final period.

With the Hotdogs on top, 62-59, Rodney Santos had back-to-back treys while Magsanoc and Evangelista each had a triple in a display of shooting prowess by both teams.

After their guns went silent, White stole the ball from Ron Riley and slammed it home to break a deadlock at 73 with only 30 ticks left.

PUREFOODS 79—Brown 28, White 13, Magsanoc 12, Evangelista 11, Patrimonio 9, Raymundo 4, Yee 2, Balingit 0, Yap 0, Canotnjos 0.

ALASKA 74—Dobbins 26, Riley 13, Allado 10, Santos 8, Gahol 8, Arigo 5, Noble 3, Lastimosa 2, Teng 0, Wallkvist 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 40-37, 54-55, 79-74.

St. Francis cagers prevail

By Roy Luarca

ROXAS City—St. Francis of Assisi is deadly even without Yancy.

The Doves, hardly missing the services of 6-foot-8 rookie pro Yancy de Ocampo, started their title-retention bid with a 93-61 rout of Southern City Colleges (Zamboanga City) yesterday in the 56th National Students Basketball Championships at the Dinggoy Roxas Civic Center here.

Heady playmaker Al Vergara ably orchestrated the Doves' offense while their big men, led by 6-foot-6 Ranidel de Ocampo, younger brother of Yancy, pounded the shaded lane with impunity as they outclassed the smaller Zamboangueños.

Applying a relentless full-court pressure defense, the Doves took command by the halfway mark, 46-30. Rather than relax, however, the Doves continued their rampage behind Ranidel, Donald Delfin and Lyndon Abian to send a stern warning to the other teams entered in the collegiate division of the tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

De Ocampo led the Doves with 16 points, followed by Delfin with 12 and Abian 11. Vergara chipped in nine points and wowed the capacity crowd with his pinpoint passes in the inaugural of the two-in-one event sponsored by Accel, the official outfitter, Burlington, Molten and Absolute Mineral Water.

Edter Wayne Chua topscored for the Zamboangueños with 17 points, while Jayson Rebollos added 10.

"This is a good start for us, but we can't afford to relax until we have met the other teams," said St. Francis coach Gabby Velasco, who steered the Doves to the national title last year in San Pablo City, Laguna.

In the high school division, University of Visayas downed West Negros College, 88-70, while Sacred Heart of Montessori bested Southern City Colleges, 68-63.

The tournament opened with an hour-long ceremony attended by top local officials led by Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo, Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario and Rep. Rodriguez Dadivas.

Also present were BAP president Tiny Literal, secretary general Graham Lim, executive vice president and treasurer Christian Tan, auditor Tony Fabico and legal counsel lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan.

Literal also inducted the newly elected officers of BAP-Capiz headed by provincial director lawyer Ronnie Dadivas and legal adviser Fiscal Julius Abela.

SPORTSWATCH

Germany ahead

SALT LAKE CITY—With minimum fuss and maximum efficiency, Germany has reclaimed top spot at the Winter Olympics with a record number of medals. Andre Lange's crew won the 4-man bobsled and speedskater Claudia Pechstein won the women's 5,000-meters in record time Saturday to boost Germany's medal total at Salt Lake to 35, including 12 gold. The Germans were No. 1 at Nagano four years ago, winning 29 medals to equal the record set by the former Soviet Union at Calgary a decade earlier. With only one event remaining Saturday and two medal events Sunday before the closing ceremony, the Germans have little chance of being topped. *AP*

Williams No. 1

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—American Venus Williams is happy to say she did it her way. She'll become No. 1 for the first time Monday, the first black player to hold that spot in the WTA computer rankings, and she's proud that tennis is not her only pursuit. "I've enjoyed myself along the way," Williams said Saturday, "and I haven't limited myself just to playing tennis or made myself believe that was the only thing in life." Williams' father, Richard, often has said that either Venus or sister Serena could have reached the top spot before now if that had been their top priority. *AP*

Mauresmo triumphs

DUBAI—Third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France defeated fourth-seeded compatriot Sandrine Testud 6-4, 7-6 (3) Saturday to win the $585,000 Dubai Duty Free Women's Open. Testud upset American Venus Williams on Friday. Williams, who has won three tournaments this year, already was assured of overcoming countrywoman Jennifer Capriati next week for the top ranking on the WTA tour. Mauresmo, who knocked out No. 2 seed Monica Seles of the United States, used pin-point lobs and charged to the net Saturday to win $93,000 in one hour and 44 minutes. "Sandrine played a great game and beating the world No. 1 one was great. I know it as I lost to Venus (Williams) two times in a row. So thank you, Sandrine, for that," Mauresmo said. *AP*

Marikina golfest

PRESIDENT'S Cup winners Emeng Buenaventura (low gross) and BJ Medalla (low net) are expected anew to display their par-busting prowess as the Marikina Golfers Association (MGA) stages its First Quarter Golf Tournament tomorrow (Feb. 26) at the Valley Golf's South Course, MGA president Noel Flores said yesterday. Tee-off time is slated at 11 a.m. up to 12 noon. For more details, contact the MGA Secretariat at 681-5849 (look for Rhea).

Scott, Kevin advance

CARLSBAD, California—This World Golf Championship event looks more like the final of the Sacramento city tournament.

After a week of surprising losses by Tiger Woods and just about every other big name in golf, the final survivors of the Match Play Championship are Scott McCarron and Kevin Sutherland, who have been playing each other since they were kids.

McCarron claimed a dramatic 1-up victory over Paul Azinger by holing a 40-foot (12-meter) birdie putt on the final hole. Sutherland became the highest seed ever to reach the finals—No. 62—with a 1-up victory when Brad Faxon three-putted the 18th green from 15 feet (4.5 meters).

A wild finish?

It's been that way all week at La Costa Resort, where Woods, Phil Mickelson and David Duval were gone after the first day and everyone else fell in line.

Next up is a 36-hole final for McCarron and Sutherland, who came into the week as the Nos. 45 and 62, respectively. *AP*

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PRESIDENT Arroyo congratulates Hermie Esguerra as Mike Arroyo and jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr. look on. JOAN BONDOC

Wind Blown back-to-back Cup champ

By Edwin Villanueva

THE CHALLENGE didn't come from Batangas Entry. Instead, it was Lyonnais who made the threat but Wind Blown proved he's simply the best.

The 2001 Horse of the Year responded briskly to Fernando Raquel Jr.'s whipping down the wire to repeat as First Gentleman Silver Cup champion in front of a roaring crowd yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

"*Masayang masaya ako dahil naka* back-to-back win *siya*. This is very memorable *kasi si* Dhunoy *din ang sakay ni* Wind Blown *noong manalo siya sa karerang ito* last year," said Wind Blown's owner Hermie Esguerra.

The 47-year-old sportsman-businessman from Plaridel, Bulacan personally received the huge Silver Cup from the race honoree, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who was accompanied by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President, who gamely mingled and shook hands with *kareristas*, also congratulated Esguerra for Wind Blown's victory which was worth P1.1 million.

Lyonnais, a known stayer, surprisingly outbroke the field but Wind Blown easily took control from the first bend and shot to a two-length lead.

As Batangas Entry struggled to shake off Lyonnais at second spot, Wind Blown coasted to a four-length margin entering the home turn.

But Lyonnais, under Val Dilema, gave Wind Blown's backers some anxious moments by suddenly looming big at midstretch, prompting Raquel to use the stick.

"*Panigurado lang*," said Raquel, who was tapped by Esguerra to ride Wind Blown again after the horse nearly lost to Batangas Entry in last year's Classic Open while under Pat Dilema's guidance.

Lyonnais finished the 2,050-meter event just a length behind Wind Blown and settled for P350,000, while Batangas Entry could only land third, five lengths off the winner, and got P175,000. Staunch Ally, never a factor in the race, was fourth and last, good for P85,000.

Esguerra said Wind Blown might be raced again in the Commissioner's Cup on March 17.

Winning time was 2:13.4 (29-23.5-27-25-29).

Ilocandia Slew scores

BUÑAG

ILOCANDIA Slew got a big lift from star jockey Jonathan Hernandez to edge Project Genesis in the Hopeful Stakes last night at the Santa Ana Park.

The four-year-old bay filly owned by Malate businessman Myther Buñag hugged the rail down the wire and slipped past Project Genesis to prevail in the 1,600-meter race.

"*Matapang na kabayo at saka maganda ang pagkakadala ni* Unoh (Hernandez)," said Buñag, whose prized galloper earned P300,000. Ilocandia Slew (Aimaam-Seode) is being trained by Nestor Manalang.

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Kuratong witness cries harassment /A26

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Metro mayors favor deputizing drivers /A26

Bonifacio monument can move to Mehan or Luneta, says mayor

By Philip C. Tubeza

ANDRES BONIFACIO might soon be joining Jose Rizal at the Rizal Park or even the controversial Mehan Garden. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has offered to host Bonifacio's Caloocan City monument.

Bonifacio's monument in Caloocan City might be relocated to give way to the current extension of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), which will go through the famous city landmark, a masterpiece of National Artist Guillermo Tolentino.

Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo and the National Historical Institute (NHI) are wrangling over the relocation of Bonifacio's monument.

Malonzo wants Bonifacio's monument moved so that the MRT would finally be connected with the Light Rail Transit (LRT). The NHI and other conservationist groups are opposing the plan because of the monument's historical value in its present location.

Atienza, who is also squabbling with the NHI over the historic Mehan Garden, said he wants "to help." He even suggested that the Monumento be transferred to the Mehan Garden if not to Rizal (Luneta) Park, which is where Rizal's monument stands.

"I understand the predicament of Mayor Malonzo," Atienza said. "That is why I have offered Manila as the new home of the hero's monument. We would more than welcome the opportunity to have the monument here in our city because (Bonifacio) is Manila's own. He was born in Manila and raised in Manila."

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Kuratong witness cries harassment

By Philip C. Tubeza

A WITNESS in the alleged Kuratong Baleleng rubout reported to police that an unidentified man had threatened to shoot him yesterday while he was driving his jeep in Ermita, Manila.

Mandy G. Capili, 48, a tabloid columnist and a resident of Tondo, Manila, told police the incident might have had something to do with the Kuratong Baleleng case.

Capili told police an unidentified man on board a blue Toyota car pointed a gun at him, said investigator SPO4 Ramon Buluran of the Ermita police station. He said he was driving his jeep along Malvar Street in Ermita yesterday when "a brand-new" blue Toyota suddenly appeared beside him about 7:30 a.m.

He said the car's driver opened his window and began shouting curses at him. He said the man then pointed a gun of unknown caliber at him.

Police said Capili got scared and stepped on the gas but he stopped at the corner of Malvar Street and Taft Avenue to wait for the blue Toyota. Capili also had a gun on him, police said.

But the blue Toyota instead turned on Leon Guinto Street even if it was a one-way street, Capili told police.

Capili went to the Ermita police station about noon yesterday to report the incident.

But police said Capili might have figured in a traffic altercation with the driver of the Toyota.

"If somebody wanted to kill him, the gunman would not have waited and brandished his gun (at Capili)," Buluran said.

Unidentified gunmen recently ambushed Misamis Occidental board member Renato Parojinog, an alleged leader of the Kuratong Baleleng gang, in a busy intersection in downtown Manila.

Parojinog allegedly met recently with police officials and signified his intention to be a witness in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

In 1995, Capili alleged that he saw 12 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang alive and well when they were arrested in Parañaque. Ten of them were later found dead on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission denied his allegation and claimed that the 10 suspects were killed in a shootout.

Capili later left the government's Witness Protection Program for still unknown reasons.

Metro mayors favor deputizing drivers

By Christian V. Esguerra

PASAY Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad yesterday suggested that jeepney organizations put up a complaint desk to receive complaints concerning members driving recklessly or consistently violating traffic rules.

Trinidad said "incorrigible" offenders should be slapped either with expulsion or with a corresponding complaint before the Metro Manila Development Authority or the Land Transportation Office.

He made the suggestion after the MMDA announced that it would deputize jeepney drivers as traffic enforcers to help improve the traffic situation in the metropolis.

Trinidad, spokesperson of the League of Metro Manila Mayors, welcomed the new strategy, saying it would instill "self-discipline among drivers and allow jeepney organizations to police their ranks."

But he pointed out that the MMDA should implement a clear-cut policy and a stringent training program for prospective jeepney drivers cum traffic enforcers.

Transport groups should show the public they would not tolerate members who consistently violate traffic rules by imposing stiff penalties on the violators, Trinidad said.

He also proposed that jeepneys carry a hotline number that commuters may contact to report unruly drivers.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, February 25, 2002
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Dan 9:4-10**
Gospel: **Lk 6:36-38**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back."

Commentary

"Yes, your uncle abused you. But try to forgive him, as Jesus teaches us." Is this right? No, especially not if it's used as an excuse for inaction. Society must punish the abuser, not for revenge, but to reassert the violated value, speaking the truth, in love, to both abuser and victim: "An innocent person has been gravely wronged. We must act to ensure that this will not be repeated."

Unless we are living in the jungle, other alternatives are available to us apart from killing people, to ensure that others are safe from them. Mercy and justice require us to do no more and no less than what is necessary to restrain offenders from further serious abuse of their freedom. But those in prison are still

God's children. Providing humane conditions, in keeping with human dignity, and recognizing that people are more than their wrongdoing, are the Christian way.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

SPECIAL LAWS (CIVIL SERVICE LAW)—Gross neglect of duty; simple neglect of duty—Under the Civil Service law and rules, there is no concrete description of what specific acts constitute the grave offense of Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service. Jurisprudence, however, is instructive on this point. The Court has considered the following acts or omission, *inter alia,* as Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service: misappropriation of public funds, abandonment of office, failure to report back to work without prior notice, failure to safe keep public records and property, making false entries in public documents and falsification of court orders. Gross neglect of duty, on the other hand, denotes a flagrant and culpable refusal or unwillingness of a person to perform a duty. The Court has categorized the following as constitutive of the grave offense of Gross Neglect of Duty: negligence in the prosecution of cases and malicious delay in the administration of justice by a police officer, act of provincial warden in retaining a prisoner in his custody without authority and just cause instead of sending him to the Muntinlupa penitentiary, failure to transcribe stenographic notes eight cases which dated as far back as 1972, failure of a judge to decide a case within a period fixed by law, and exerting undue influence by a deputy clerk of court on a judge in the disposition of cases pending before the court. Simple Neglect of Duty, however, signifies a disregard of a duty resulting from carelessness or indifferences. The Court has decided the following, *inter alia,* as constituting the less grave offense of Simple Neglect of Duty: delay in the transmittal of court records, delay in responding to written queries, and delay of more than 1 year and 7 months in furnishing a party with a copy of the court's decision. As can be gleaned from the foregoing cases, mere delay in the performance of one's function has been consistently considered as a less grave offense of simple neglect of duty, punishable by suspension without pay for 1 month and 1 day to 6 months. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, Philippine Retirement Authority v. Rupa, G.R. No. 140519, August 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

JESS YUSON

HOUSEHOLD ON WHEELS
A man pushing a cart that carries members of his family and their meager belongings vies for space with vehicles along the Manila portion of Roxas Boulevard.

'I'll bring him to heaven'

By Christian V. Esguerra

BEFORE he stabbed his 10-year-old son yesterday in Makati City, Japanese businessman Hirofumi Tachikawa Sr. wrote a suicide note that said, "I don't want Hiro (to) become like street children. I don't want to see him starving. (There's) no future for him here if I cannot be with him so I will bring him to heaven (with me)..."

Tachikawa, 66, slit his throat and slashed his wrist but did not succeed in killing himself and his son, police said. Both are still in critical condition at the Philippine General Hospital, said case investigator SPO2 Juancho Ibis.

The Tachikawa boy suffered a deep wound in the chest after his father stabbed him with a chisel in their house on Calatagan Street in Barangay Palanan, police said.

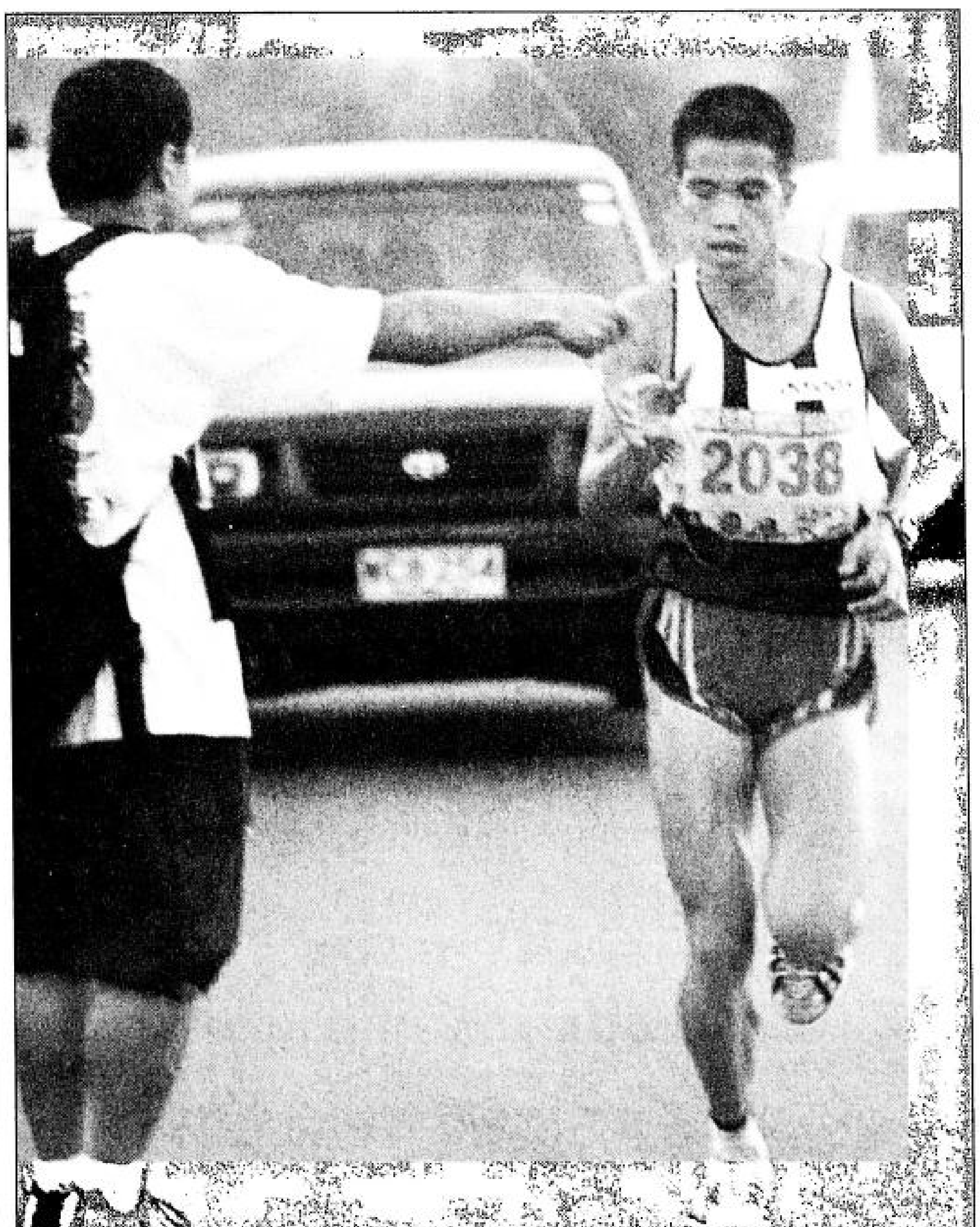
Tachikawa's wife Lucelia, 31, found her son bleeding in her husband's arms in their bedroom about 10 a.m. yesterday, police said.

She told police that when she tried to take her son away from Tachikawa, he shoved her away and then locked himself inside the bathroom where he cut himself.

But she could not tell police what drove her husband to try to kill himself and their son.

In the suicide note, which police found inside the bedroom, Tachikawa said he was already "exhausted" and "could not wait (for) the remittances (of money) from Japanese friends who promised."

In the note, he also asked his wife to contact Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and two other persons to help her shoulder his and his son's burial expenses.



ERIK ARAZAS

MARATHON MAN
Crisanto Canillo Jr. of the Philippine Navy takes the marker that signifies he's in the last stretch of the 42K Pasig River Heritage Marathon. The 25-year-old topped the event held at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio Sunday morning.

Bonifacio monument can . . .

From page A25

The possible relocation sites for Bonifacio's monument in Manila are the Agrifina Circle, according to Atienza. It could also become "the centerpiece of the soon to be redeveloped Mehan Garden," he said.

"These are fitting sites to host the monument and we would be proud to have it in any of these places," he said.

Atienza said he understands the concerns raised by those opposing Malonzo's plan to transfer the Bonifacio monument to Tala in Caloocan. He said he suggested the monument's transfer to Manila "as a compromise to help settle the issue."

But the Manila mayor did not say if he foresees a possible revival of the debate on who should be the country's national hero, Rizal or Bonifacio? What is certain is that the plan would again unleash a barrage of protests from the NHI and citizens concerned about the country's historical landmarks.

METROBRIEFS

Jeep robber slain

LAWMAN PO2 Christian Bajen gunned down a suspected robber who allegedly held up a passenger jeepney about 7 a.m. Saturday on P. Tuazon Boulevard in Barangay San Roque, Quezon City. The suspect died on the spot while his three companions escaped, police said. Bajen was on a Cubao-bound jeepney when the robbers announced the holdup at the corner of P. Tuazon and 20th Avenue. The robbers took the cell phones and other valuables of Roselle Joy Agravante, 17, of Manila, and Cyrill de Leon, 24, of Antipolo City. When the robbers tried to get off the vehicle on 18th Avenue, PO2 Bajen introduced himself as a lawman and tried to arrest them. A shootout ensued leading to the death of the robbery suspect. *Agnes E. Donato*

Café de Malate burns

FIRE hit the three-story Café de Malate on Leon Guinto Street in Ermita, Manila, Saturday morning and caused P6 million in property damage. According to FO2 Oscar Ropero, the blaze started at 7:15 a.m. in one of the VIP rooms on the second floor. Members of the café staff tried to put out the fire but were forced back by thick smoke. Ropero said the blaze spread and gutted the second and third floors. *Alcuin Papa*

Blaze at noon

ABOUT 300 families were left homeless after a big fire hit a slum in Balintawak, Quezon City Saturday. No one was reported injured in the blaze, officials said. FO2 Ed Biscocho said the fire hit the Gana Compound about 9:30 a.m., and quickly spread because the shanties were made up of light combustible materials. It took 30 firetrucks to put out the blaze around noon. *Agnes Donato*

Cop shoots old man

PO3 MIKE Diaz is in hot water for shooting dead a 70-year-old man who tried to stop authorities from arresting his son in Quezon City last Thursday. Police said Diaz, 34, Of the Central Police District, shot and killed retired government employee Floro Silidio around midnight Thursday near Silidio's house on Emilio Aguinaldo Street, Sta. Lucia, Novaliches. Diaz, a 10-year veteran of the force, was detained at police headquarters in Camp Karingal. Diaz, along with local barangay officials, reportedly went to Silidio's house to arrest his son Romeo, who was said to be drunk and running around carrying a bolo and threatening to hack people. Diaz claimed Silidio tried to assault them with a lead pipe. Diaz said Silidio lunged at him and made him lose his balance, causing him to fire random shots that hit Silidio. *Agnes Donato*

Brothers kill buddy

ROLANDO Cabarrubias and his brother Ricardo last Thursday killed their drinking buddy Anthony Abubacar, 30, in Pasay City, police said. Abubacar and the Cabarrubias brothers were drinking when they quarreled over Abubacar's dirty hands. The brothers stabbed Abubacar about 9:30 p.m., police said. Police were still looking for the brothers. *Christian Esguerra*

RECAH Trinidad's "Bare Eye" column will be back on Friday.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

A bonding holiday with a soul mate

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

AS you read this, my sinister soul mate **Boy Abunda** and I will be en route to a four-day bonding holiday in Hong Kong.

We had long wanted to travel together, but it took us six months to get our schedules to harmonize.

We're a happy bunch going to Hong Kong. Boy's partner **Bong** and my favorite cousin **Rina** are completing the group.

Originally, we wanted to go to Bangkok, since I'd never been there except for brief stopover at their airport. But Boy and I had no interest in going to any of the flesh shows. Our stomachs aren't really too comfortable with very spicy foods. And we're both admittedly designer-obsessed (Vivienne Tam and DKNY for me, D&G, Versace, and Helmut Lang for Boy).

We decided therefore that we were better off going to our tried and tested shopping destination favorite, Hong Kong.

My family has been laughing every time I say that I only intend to buy two bags, four pairs of shoes, a few Vivienne Tam outfits, and just a bit of Shu Uemura makeup.

"Yah, right" is their resounding cry.

To prove my point, I said I was only bringing one suitcase. Their predicted ending was that I would end up springing for a second suitcase since I would already fill up one suitcase just with **Josh**'s things.

I'm not going to be a hypocrite. I'm taking two suitcases with me, but I promise to stick to my short purchase list.

New thrillers

The latest **John Grisham**, "The Summons" is already out in the local market. I was given a copy for my birthday, and I intend to read it on the plane.

I'm glad National Bookstore is trying its best to release books here almost simultaneously with the US release dates. I inconvenienced my cousin **Celda**, who was in San Francisco over the Christmas holidays, because I desperately wanted **David Baldacci**'s "Last Man Standing." I didn't realize that National had carried the title almost at the same time I bought it abroad.

Baldacci's book is excellent, although the story's ultimate villain is a bit hard to swallow, but the pacing and attention to "hostage rescue" detail is impressive. I urge you to get your copy soon.

Sachi revisited

I haven't written about restaurants in a while because I've been trying to cut down on my intake. My son Josh loves to eat out, so even if I try to avoid it, at least twice a week we really have to indulge. Most often, we eat out Monday nights since this is really my rest day.

Doreen Fernandez had written about Sachi, the Japanese restaurant in the new eatery row of Araneta Coliseum. Prior to her column, we had already tried the place. Most likely because I was on appetite suppressants at that time, I didn't really appreciate my meal.

Josh and I went back to Sachi because he really wanted to eat tempura and I wanted to give the place a second shot since Doreen had given the menu such a glowing review.

I'm glad we went back because this time around I not only enjoyed but I also savored their sukiyaki. We opted for the pricier Japanese beef, but it was worth every peso. The meat was so melt-in-your-mouth tender, and they were so generous with my favorite long-stem straw mushrooms (some refer to them as winter mushrooms), which aren't always locally available. The broth was perfect, not too sweet, but not bland, either.

The sukiyaki was filling enough for two women, but most likely just enough for a man's appetite.

Josh devoured the tempura. The batter was light and there was no displeasing, oily taste.

The order had five prawns, and I made the mistake of getting one. This really upset Josh, and I felt guilty for having shared with him when I noticed, near the end of our meal, that he loved it so much that he was content to even eat the prawns' tails.

Sachi's prices are similar to those of Sugi in Greenhills, meaning it's on the high end. But the food is of excellent quality, service is prompt and unobtrusive, and for us Quezon City residents, the location is convenient.

Comedy of quiz-show errors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to reader **Loi R. Landicho** of Rizal Village, Makati City for these bemusingly incorrect answers to questions asked on "The Weakest Link":

Quizmaster Edu Manzano: *Anong pelikula nina* Meg Ryan at Nicolas Cage *ang shinoot sa* Los Angeles?

Contestant: "When Ali Met Sally"!

(Not in the boxing ring, we hope! No, the correct answer is "City of Angels.")

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilan ang babies kapag sinabing* quintuplets?

Contestant: *Pito!*

(*Siguro* mutant *yung mga* babies! No, *lima lang.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa* English, *anong* W *ang karaniwang pinaglalagyan ng pera?*

Contestant: *Sa unahan!*

(*Sa presinto ka magpaliwanag!* The right answer is wallet.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ang luglog, sotanghon, mami at canton ay mga uri ng anong pagkain?*

Contestant: *Minatamis!*

(Sweet *pancit?* Yuk!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Anong* P *ang ginagamit ng pintor upang doon haluin ang pintura?*

Contestant: Painting!

(*Hindi maipinta ang mga mukha namin!* No, palette.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* charge *ng* anode?

Contestant: Cathode!

(*Ang* cathode *ay kabaligtaran ng* anode. *Ang tamang sagot*, negative.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilan ang sungay ng* water buffalo?

Contestant: *Wala!*

(*Kakaiba ang kalabaw mo!* Two *ang* correct answer.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa anong damo nakatuhog ang lechon?*

Contestant: Apple!

(*Tuhugin ka kaya namin? Ang lechon ay nakatuhog sa* bamboo, the tallest kind of grass.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saang bansa matatagpuan ang* Mt. Hibuk-Hibok?

Contestant: *Wala!*

(*Sa Pilipinas!*—On Camiguin island.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang may mast, kotse o barko?*

Contestant: *Daungan!*

(Just choose between the two, don't add a third possibility! Of course, the correct answer is *barko.)*

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* A *sa* RNA *na katulad ng* DNA *ay matatagpuan sa genes natin?*

Contestant: Anthrax!

(No, acid—RNA stands for ribonucleic acid.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saang kontinente matatagpuan ang* Tibet?

Contestant: Atlantic!

(That's an ocean, not a continent! Correct answer: Asia.)

—Keep 'em coming, Mr. Loi! Thanks again.

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Ryan C heads performing arts department of Danding's SMC

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EARLY last year, word got around that ace composer **Ryan Cayabyab** was leaving the country for good. He was granted an extraordinary visa by the US Embassy which would allow him to become a US immigrant.

However, at about the same time Ryan got his visa, he received an offer from business tycoon **Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco** to head the performing arts department of San Miguel Corp.

Still, Ryan and his family—wife **Emy** and children **Krina** and **Antonio**—left for the US last April.

"I wanted to leave and study some more in the States," Ryan says.

They went to New York and later to the West Coast, but after only a couple of months, Ryan and his family returned to the Philippines. He accepted the offer of Cojuangco, who appointed him executive and artistic director of the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

"The offer wasn't hard to turn down, but it was exactly the challenge I was looking for," Ryan shares. "I've done everything I could think of and everything would be a repeat. I'm here now because I want to be here."

These days, Ryan flashes his ID at San Miguel, where he holds office every day. He leads the San Miguel Symphony Orchestra, with Prof. **Julian Quirit** as principal conductor and musical director. Conductor in residence is **Rodel Colmenar.**

Ryan also heads the San Miguel Master Chorale, with **Jonathan Velasco** as conductor and musical director.

"They are salaried musicians and singers," Ryan says. "We are all preparing for their performances at the CCP in August, September and October.

"I want the orchestra to penetrate the international scene and spread the excellence of Filipino artists or become one of the best symphony orchestras in the world."

His work at the San Miguel Foundation allows Ryan to be more prolific.

"I've done three complete Mass songs during my stay there," he grants. "The job gives me more time to compose."

Yet, despite the demands of his job, Ryan took time out to complete an all-a capella album, "One More," under BMG Records Pilipinas. It was released last December in keeping with his once-a-decade solo recording.

He came out with "One" in 1981 and "One Christmas" in 1991.

"Doing an all-a capella album has been a sort of tradition for me," Ryan explains. "I know I do not have the best voice like the professional singers around. I'm not a recording artist, but there's more to singing than having a good voice. Hopefully, I can inspire people to be creative, innovative and to have fun by focusing on their strengths."

In "One More," Ryan breathes new dimensions to his treasured compositions like "Paraiso" and "Da Coconut Nut" previously recorded by Smokey Mountain, and "Paraisong Parisukat" and "Nais Ko," both **Basil Valdez** originals.

"One More" is Ryan's second outing for BMG Records. In 1996, he released "The Silver Album" for his 25th anniversary in the music business. It was a significant recording because it paved the way for **Lea Salonga**'s entry into BMG Records.

Lea, who was still based in Boston in 1996, flew to New York to record "Paraiso" and "Limang Dipang Tao" for Ryan's album. It also carried his other compositions like "Tunay na Ligaya" and "Tuwing Umuulan," performed by various artists.

But in "One More," it's Ryan himself who recorded all 10 tracks. Also included in the album are "Kailan," "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang," "Mama" and "Awit ni Isagani," a song he wrote for the musical "El Filibusterismo."

Late last year, Ryan also went to Greece to accept his plaque for winning second prize in the Onassis International Cultural Competition. He was the only Asian winner in the category original music composition for dance, an award he shared with **Christopher Lyndon-Gee** of the United Kingdom.

Social-drama forum

MY FORMER classmate at the UP College of Mass Communications who is now a lawyer, **Jun Quicho**, now hosts a daily social-drama forum on radio, "Pitlag, Kuwento ng Buhay, Isyu ng Bayan," 4 to 4:30 p.m. on Radio Mindanao Network's dzXL.

"Pitlag" innovates on the soap opera to share with isteners new ways of looking at issues and events.

"Pitlag" won the best radio drama series award in the 2001 Catholic Mass Media Awards.

This week, lawyer Jun Q, as he is known to his listeners, tackles the typical problems of a small community in "Kuwento ng Isang Looban."

"Pitlag" is aired nationwide, Monday to Friday, in the 25 market areas of RMN.

The radio program's pool of directors is composed of **Jeffrey Jeturian, Soxy Topacio** and **Khryss Adalia**.

MAESTRO Ryan Cayabyab goes a capella anew in "One More."

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2	SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	RIDING IN CARS
2 (DTS)	IKAW LAMANG . .
3 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4	SHALLOW HAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	RIDING IN CARS
2 (DOLBY)	SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4	IKAW LAMANG . .

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FINAL ANSWER
2	IKAW LAMANG
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	IKAW LAMANG . .
2	KAULAYAW
3 (DOLBY)	KATE & LEOPOLD
4 (DTS)	HEARTS IN ATLANTIC

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	GIRLS FEVER
3	ANGELS EYE
4 (DTS)	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	IKAW LAMANG .
3 (DTS)	MARSHALL DICK
4	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5	SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	IKAW LAMANG .
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	IKAW LAMANG . .
3	SAKIM SA PAGMAMAHAL

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	IKAW LAMANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	HEART IN ATLANTIC
3	VANILLA SKY
4	IKAW LAMANG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	IKAW LAMANG .
3 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4	THE OTHERS

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2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3	SHALLOW HAL
4	RAT RACE
5	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6	RIDING IN CARS
7	VANILLA SKY
8	IKAW LAMANG . . .
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	BLACK HAWK DOWN

ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	RAT RACE
3	IKAW LAMANG . . .
4	RIDING IN CARS
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7	SHALLOW HAL

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marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	SHALLOW HAL
3	IKAW LAMANG. . .
4	RAT RACE
5	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6	HINOG SA PILIT
7	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8	VANILLA SKY

novaliches
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1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	VANILLA SKY
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	SHALLOW HAL
6	IKAW LAMANG . . .
7	RAT RACE
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

imus
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1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4	SHALLOW HAL
5	IKAW LAMANG . . .
6	RAT RACE

bacolod
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1	VANILLA SKY
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4	GLASS HOUSE
5	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	HEART IN ATLANTIS
3	IKAW LAMANG . . . .
4	GLASS HOUSE
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	LORD OF THE RINGS

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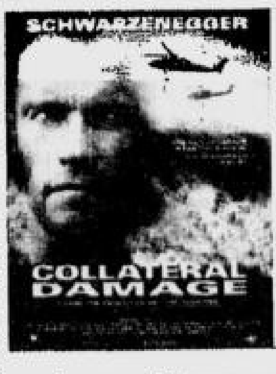

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HINOG SA PILIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SHALLOW HAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	RAT RACE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	IKAW LAMANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TATARIN / BOLD AFFAIR
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
ROBEN	HINOG SA PILIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE ONE / CAPT. CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HINOG SA PILIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-2	SHALLOW HAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
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CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
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CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
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CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
CINEMA-5	RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

RAT RACE - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:40, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:45, 10:20
MOTHMAN PROPHECIES - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	RIDING IN CARS w/ BOYS - P 13 10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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SUBURBIA Malate features Side A tonight, while Freestyle takes centerstage tomorrow, Feb. 26.

On Wednesday, Side A goes back-to-back with Pocket Central, while Toy Symphony's brand of R&B music will soothe mid-week blues on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Suburbia Malate also has exciting news to all bar habitues. The venue is dropping off 50 percent from the regular minimum consumable charge and reducing it to only P200 per person, Mondays to Saturdays.

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OPENS FEBRUARY 27

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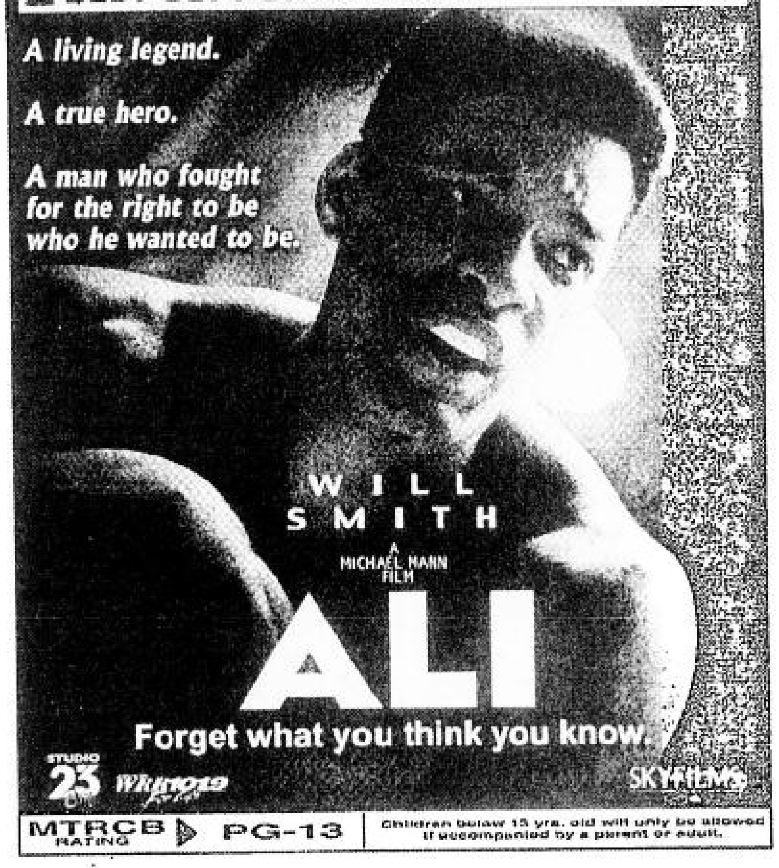
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR-JON VOIGHT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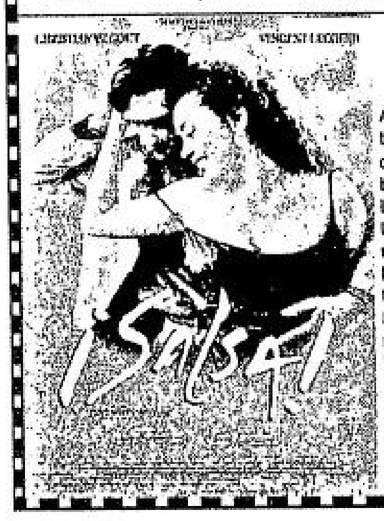

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A Film By JoyceSherman Buñuel

At age 24, Rémi Bonnet, brilliant pianist, abandons Chopin and Toulouse to play the music he has secretly loved for years - Salsa! He heads for Paris, the salsa capital of Europe, only to discover to his great surprise, that nobody wants a white boy in Latin band! Felipe, his Cuban friend, sets him straight: " You don't have the Latino look, muchacho! Today, if your are not Cubano or Columbiano, you are out!". Undaunted, Rémi deliberately takes on the identity, accent and complexion of an unemployed alien in a city where most foreigners will do almost anything to become French. Barreto, 75, the legendary Cuban composer, who is about to close down the once famous Casa Cubana, offers Rémi a job giving dance lessons to the locals. It is here that Rémi falls in love with Nathalie. Her family's "secrets and lies" reveal parental links to Barreto. Do these links explain why this shy beauty ought to be a bomb on the dance floor?

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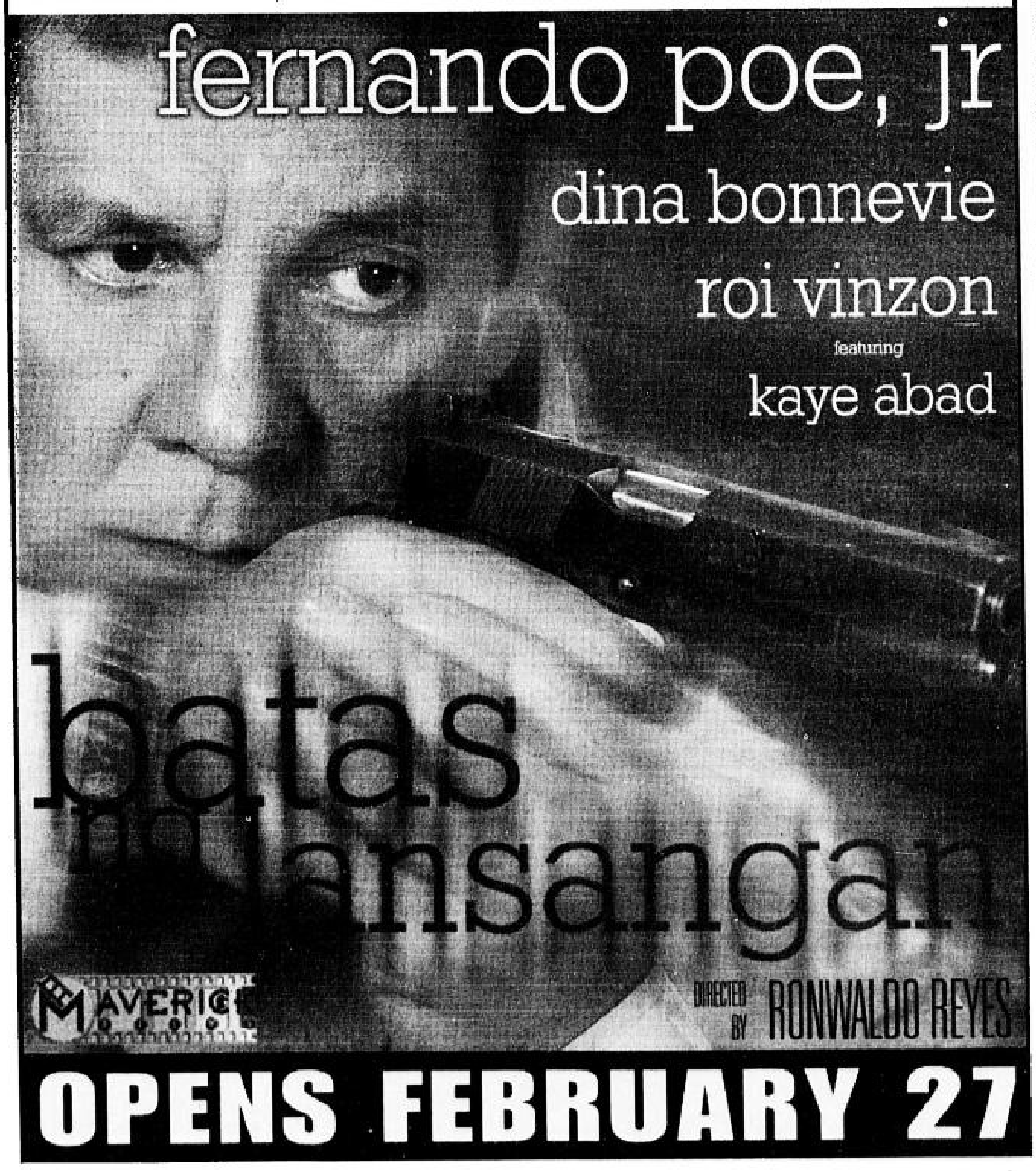
fernando poe, jr
dina bonnevie
roi vinzon
featuring
kaye abad
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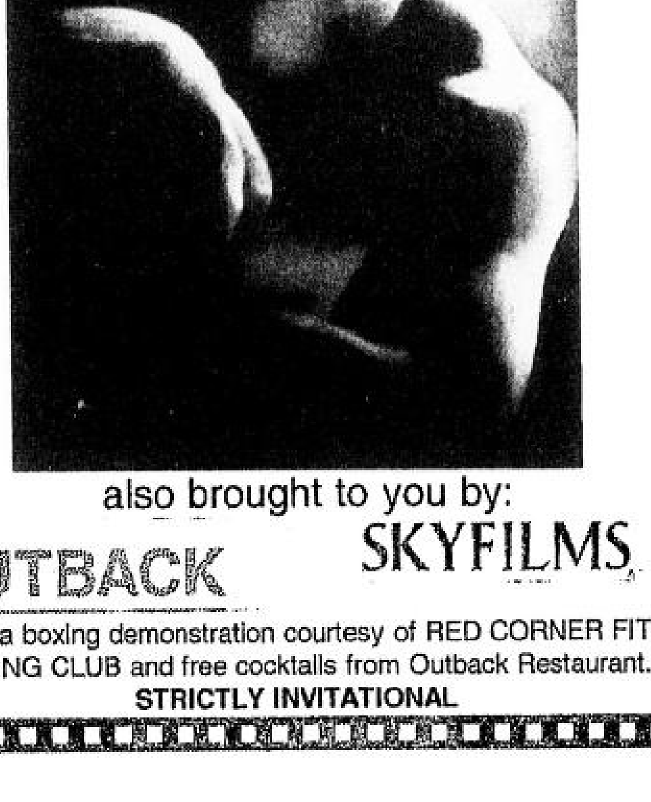

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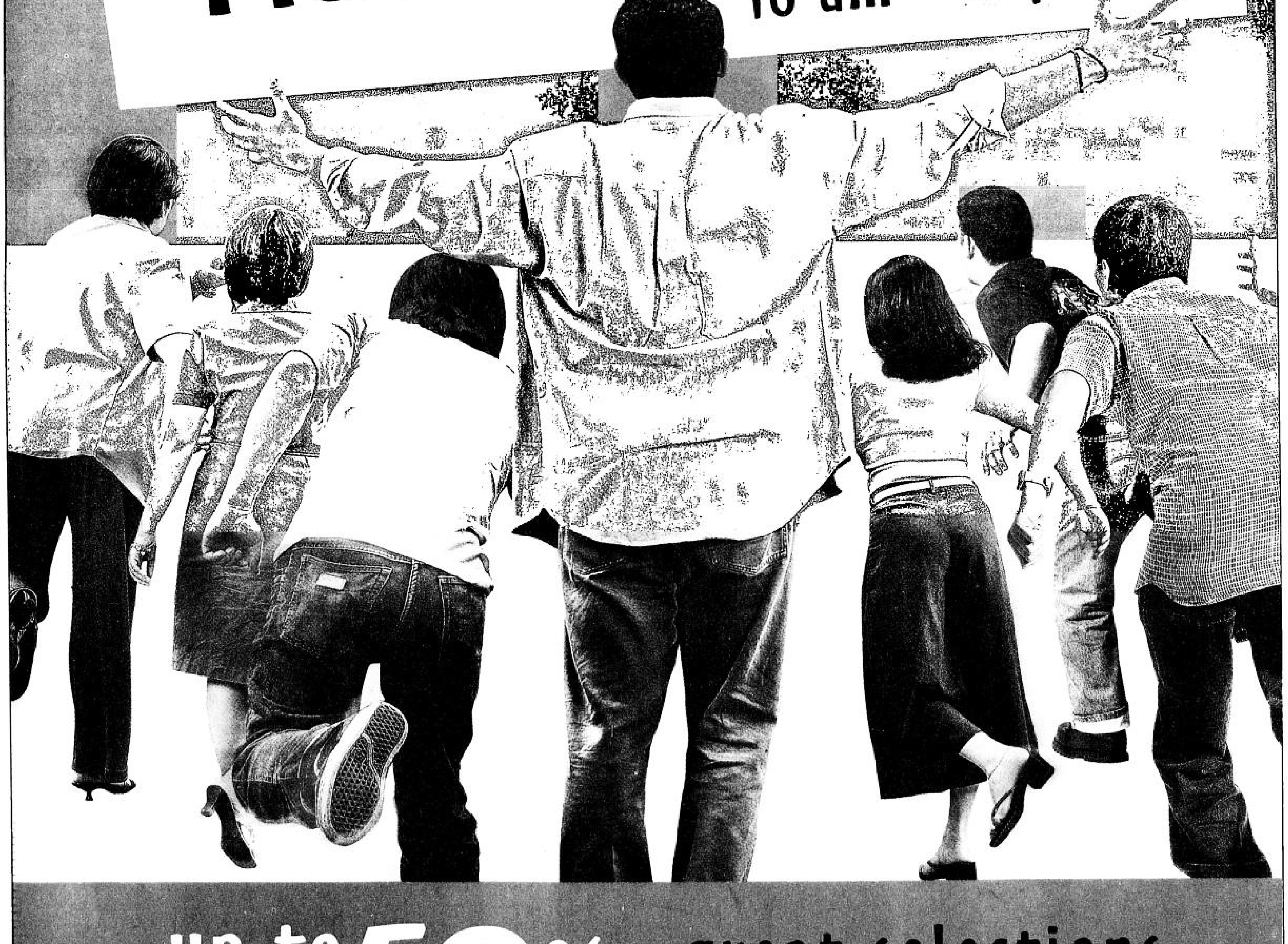

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FEBRUARY 25, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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Money changers put under BSP control

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has decided to put back money-changers under its watch and would require these companies to get a license from the central bank after nearly two decades since they were allowed to operate freely.

"The BSP will resume issuing licenses and monitor these money changers. We will place them again under our supervision and monitoring," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The decision to regulate anew the country's more than 1,000 money-changing companies was made after the Financial Action Task Force, the international watchdog against money laundering, said that this would be one of their criteria in deciding whether or not the Philippines would stay on its watchlist.

Last week, the government was still determining whether it would be the central bank, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Anti-Money Laundering Council that would police the money shops.

The circular that would spell out the details of the new policy would have to be approved by the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral in its meeting next week, he said.

Before the country liberalized its foreign exchange market in 1983, money changers were being policed by the central bank. These dollar-changing companies were required to get a license and maintain a certain level of capital.

"We are still studying whether we would impose a capital requirement. The BSP would focus its monitoring of the big ones that number about 200," he said.

Buenaventura said the smaller money shops could still operate without a BSP license. "They have to be licensed for them to put up the signs that they are BSP-authorized (firms). If they are not, would you do business with them," he asked.

The Paris-based FATF had identified the money-changing firms as one of the possible outlets of money laundering in the Philippines and elsewhere.

The Philippines had passed an Anti-Money-Laundering Law last September but has yet to be stricken off from the FATF's watchlist of countries uncooperative when it comes to curbing money laundering.

The central bank was alerted to the possibility that money changers could be an outlet for money-laundering in October last year when somebody attempted to smuggle $20 million out of the country through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The central bank has started requiring persons leaving the country to declare cash they carry in excess of $10,000.

Before this regulation, people leaving the country were only required to limit the local currency they are bringing out to no more than P10,000. Those arriving were also required to declare any substantial amount of foreign currencies with them.

Buenaventura said the Paris-based watchdog on money laundering might agree to take the Philippines out of the watchlist if the government could prove that the Anti-Money-Laundering Law was being implemented effectively.

On the banking side, the BSP official said the central bank has required banks to submit and implement a know-your-custom model. "We will include as part of the examination if a bank is adhering to the model. Sanctions and fines would be imposed to erring banks," a BSP official said.

Gov't urged to stop used-vehicle imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (Amcham) and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines (JCCI) have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the influx of used vehicle imports that have kept Philippine assemblers in a rut in contrast to their peers in Asean that have rallied from the 1997 financial crisis.

In a joint letter to Ms Macapagal, Amcham president Terry J. Emrick and JCCI president Shoichi Kameyama said the "explosion" of used-car auctions in Subic, Malinta and Valenzuela was threatening to turn the Philippines into a "dumping ground" for used vehicles from other markets.

Emrick (chief of Ford Motor Co. Philippine unit) and Kameyama said the President should give "serious consideration" to this issue as they noted that one used car sold here displaces one locally manufactured product. "Put simply, used car imports and the development of a domestic industry are incompatible and cannot viably co-exist," Emrick and Kameyama said.

They cited the experience of New Zealand, which was abandoned by automakers after its government agreed to bring in used vehicles from abroad. Employment in New Zealand's auto industry shrank by 80 percent and sales plunged 66 percent and the country was burdened with a negative trade balance in automotive products.

They stressed the need for a strong domestic base to develop strong export growth for built-up vehicles and automotive parts, which the government has yearned to achieve. The Philippine automotive industry registered $1.1 billion in exports of parts and components in 2000 and is poised to export its first built-up vehicle to the Asean Free Trade Area this month.

Emrick and Kameyama said other Asean countries—notably Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia—have banned used car imports while Mexico and China have kept their doors closed to used cars despite their entry to the World Trade Organization in order to develop their domestic industries.

"While every other market has produced impressive growth over the last five years, the Philippine market remains the only one that has not shown signs of recovery," Emrick and Kameyama said. Sales in other Asean countries are on their way back to pre-crisis levels

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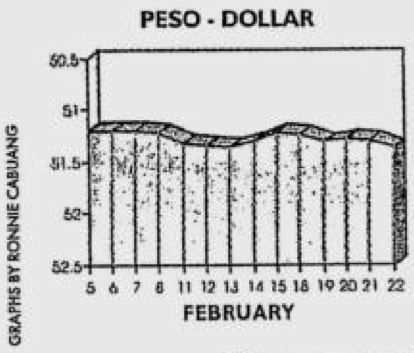

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¥134.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2002

GOLD: $293.60/294.10
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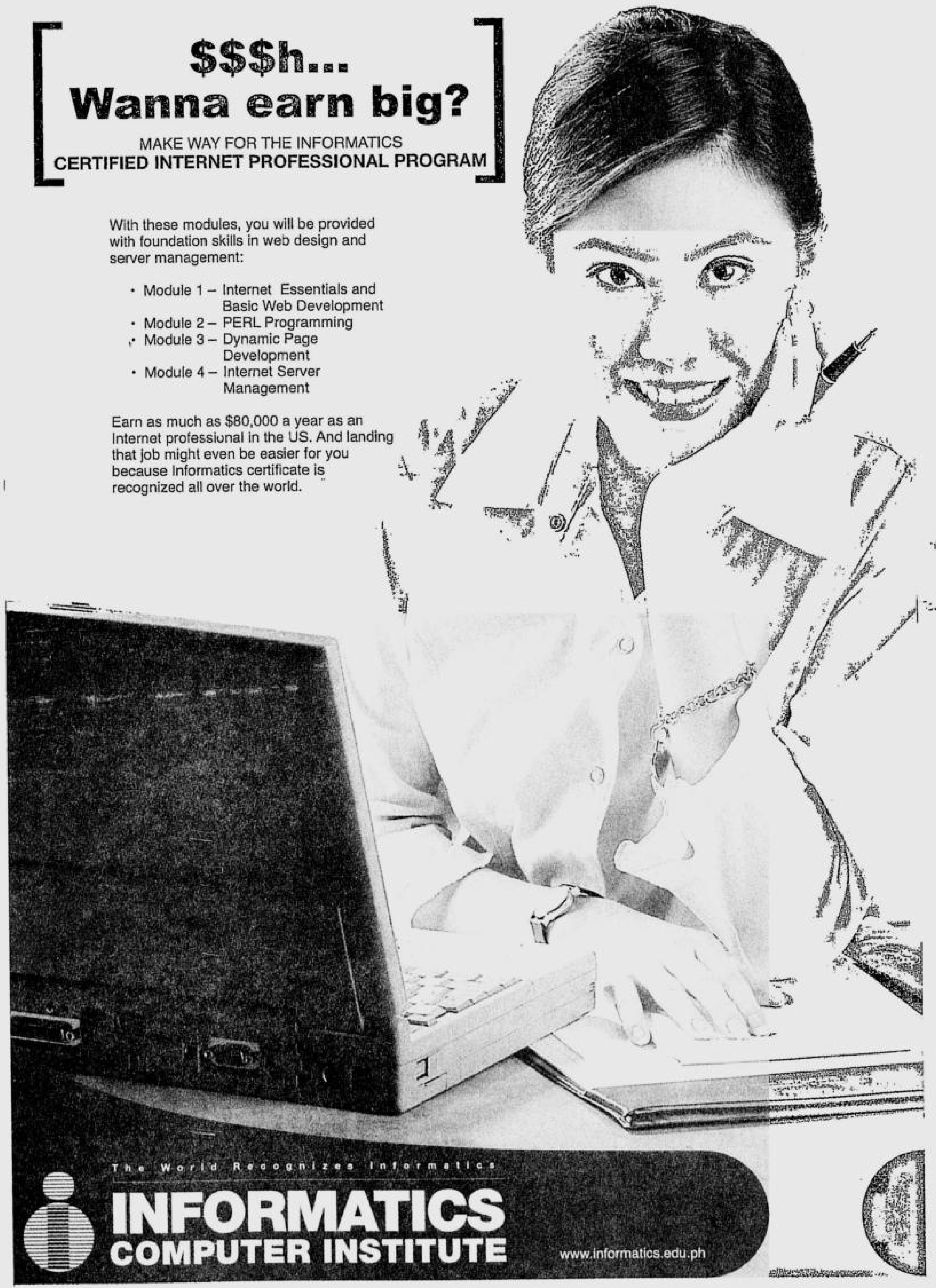
Feb. 22, 2002

CURRENCIES

Feb. 22, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.149293	1.000000	51.3030
Japan	Yen	0.008562	0.007450	0.3822
United Kingdom	Pound	1.639237	1.426300	73.1735
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147535	0.128370	6.5858
Switzerland	Franc	0.676015	0.588201	30.1765
Canada	Dollar	0.722735	0.628852	32.2620
Singapore	Dollar	0.628029	0.546448	28.0344
Australia	Dollar	0.593336	0.516262	26.4858
Bahrain	Dinar	3.048685	2.652661	136.0895
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306479	0.266667	13.6808
Brunei	Dollar	0.626967	0.545524	27.9870
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026234	0.022826	1.1710
UAE	Dirham	0.312988	0.272331	13.9714
Korea	Won	0.000878	0.000764	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.870100	44.6387
Brazil	Real	0.474914	0.413223	21.1996
Denmark	Kroner	0.134420	0.116959	6.0003
India	Rupee	0.023697	0.020619	1.0578
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.302446	0.263158	13.5008
Mexico	New Peso	0.126505	0.110072	5.6470
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480675	0.418235	21.4567
Norway	Kroner	0.129044	0.112281	5.7604
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019186	0.016694	0.8565
South Africa	Rand	0.100903	0.087796	4.5042
Sweden	Kroner	0.109300	0.095102	4.8790
Syria	Pound	0.022535	0.019608	1.0059
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032836	0.028571	1.4658
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001183	0.001029	0.0528



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Banco de Oro to buy more branches; IPO seen this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANCO de Oro, a universal bank controlled by the family of Henry Sy, is talking with three banks for the acquisition of several branches to support the expansion program of the country's 13th largest lender.

A central bank source said the bank was on the hunt for more branches that other lenders could be selling as part of their move to streamline operations and minimize redundant units.

Banco de Oro has more than 100 branches and its expansion is in line with the strategy of its affiliate, SM Prime Holdings Inc., to put up a bank in every mall.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has imposed a moratorium on the issuance of new branch and bank licenses since 1999. A bank that has exhausted its branch licenses could not put up a new one unless it would buy a branch license from other lenders.

The Sy family also has a substantial stake in China Banking Corp., the country's 11th largest bank with assets of P81.72 billion as of last year. Banco de Oro's assets were worth P75.56 billion as of end-2001.

The capitalization of Banco de Oro is more than P11 billion, having doubled it from P5.5 billion more than a year ago. It received last year a $50-million capital infusion from Cayman Island-based Cambridge Pacific Fund Ltd.

A Banco de Oro official said the universal bank would try to hold its initial public offering this year where it plans to sell a 10- to 15-percent stake though the local stock market.

The central bank had been prodding the Sy-controlled bank to list its shares as it was the only universal lender that has not gone public, a requirement under its expanded banking license.

"This year, we are telling Banco de Oro that they should list specially if the local stock market improves," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The central bank chief said Banco de Oro had been postponing its initial public offering. The Sy-controlled bank is required to offer to the public at least 10 percent of its shares within three years after obtaining its license to operate as a universal bank.

The bank had been trying to defer its IPO for the last three years and was set to go public in September last year but adverse stock market conditions again prevented it from listing its shares.

Among the country's 14 local universal banks, only Banco de Oro has not gone public. Two government-owned institutions—Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines—were exempted from the listing requirement.

The central bank, Buenaventura said, had allowed Banco de Oro to postpone its IPO late last year but the reprieve would no longer apply this year.

"They asked that we allow them to defer the IPO for one quarter and so we did. It would no longer apply this year," the central bank chief said.

UCPB seeks gov't depository status, equity infusion

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NEWLY minted board of United Coconut Planters Bank is keen on getting a significant share of government deposits in its bid to restore the bank to its former glory as one of the country's top 5 banks.

UCPB treasurer Ramon Arceo Jr. said that the new board would seek to get government depository status following the entry of government nominees to the board last Friday.

At present, Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines are the main cache of the billions of pesos worth of government deposits although Philippine National Bank (which was taken over by taipan Lucio Tan) still retains some of the government's money.

Getting government depository status is expected to boost the new UCPB board's desire to boost the bank's industry rankings. UCPB is currently No. 9 among universal banks, down from No. 5 during its peak.

UCPB chair and president Edward Go said the board's priority was to address the bank's eroding capital base and rising amount of bad loans.

UCPB is badly in need of a fresh infusion after its capital base fell below the 10-percent capital adequacy ratio set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas after it was forced to allocate more money to cover for loan losses. UCPB registered the sharpest rise in bad loans among the country's 43 banks in the fourth quarter last year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had urged UCPB to boost its capital after the bank's bad loans swelled by P6.25 billion to P20.877 billion in the fourth quarter last year. This jacked up UCPB's non-performing loan ratio to its total loan portfolio to 32.25 percent, up 9.5 percentage points from 22.82 percent in the third quarter.

Go said the board's options included fresh government infusion or the novel tier-2 capital route which allows outside investors to put in new money in the bank without diluting the current ownership structure since the investments are done through special deposit instruments.

Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac said the government would only recapitalize the bank "if it becomes absolutely necessary." She said the government's main interest was to dispose of all sequestered assets, including UCPB and the 27-percent share in San Miguel Corp., once the Supreme Court has laid down its ruling on the long-running ownership dispute over the coconut levy fund.

Go said the new board would also review UCPB's performance in the past few years to determine whether the bad loans were made prior to the 1997 financial crisis. The UCPB board was taken over by individuals linked to San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. in 1998 during the Estrada administration.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's 14 nominees to the UCPB board were finally installed last Friday or more than two months after the Supreme Court ruled that the sequestered UCPB shares were "indisputably acquired with coco levy funds, which are public in character."

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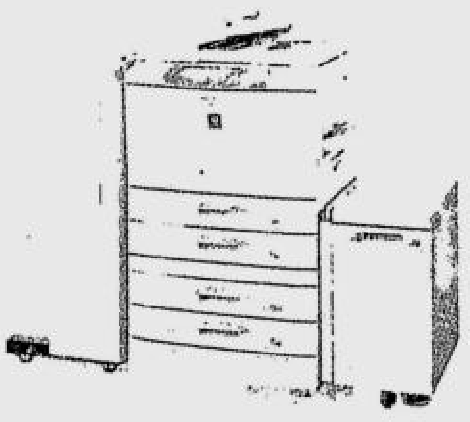

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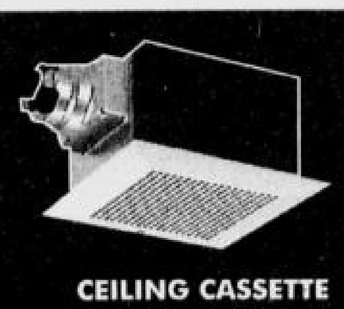

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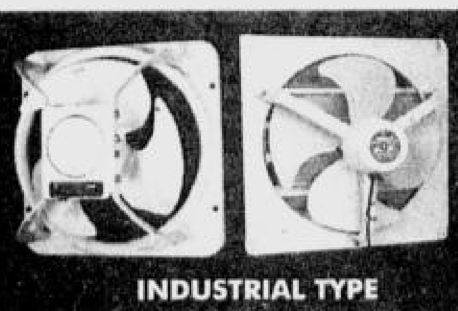

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Farewell to Crown

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IF YOU have not seen any new Toyota Crowns/Royal Saloons lately, it is because Toyota Japan has starting this year completely stopped assembling left-hand drive version of the luxury car destined for the Philippine market.

Until last year, Toyota Motor Philippines was accepting indent orders for the Crown/Royal Saloon, the undisputed executive transport in the country from the '70s up to the late '90s.

Sticker shock caused by the 1997 peso devaluation has made the price of the Crown, at P3 million, beyond the reach of most executives except for big-company presidents, said Daniel Isla, Toyota's first vice president/marketing.

Even the recent depreciation of the yen has not helped. The left-hand drive version of the Crown/Royal Saloon was made only for the Philippine market, and the much reduced local demand has made it uneconomical for Toyota Japan to accommodate even a historic and favored market such as the Philippines.

The Crowns, or rather their lower-entry models, are still the favored taxi units in right-hand drive Japan as well as Hong Kong. Their generous leg rooms—rear passengers can sit *de cuatro* with spare room to make *kuyakoy*—and comfortable ride have also found much favor even with Philippine passengers who have to endure horrible roads.

The fact that the Crowns are still in production, albeit in right-hand versions, should be a comfort to thousands of local Crown devotees, since it would mean steady and ample supply of parts, although at a higher cost as local dealers no longer carry them in inventory.

With the absence of the Crown, Toyota Philippines had considered importing from the United States the Avalon, which has similar generous leg room and ride quality. But the tariff costs would rachet the price of the Avalon, which is considered several notches below the Crown Royal Saloon, to almost P4 million at present exchange rate, said Isla.

With no competition from the Crown, Nissan has been able to snatch the executive car market with its Cefiro Elite and Cefiro Brougham editions.

Following the strategy of Toyota in the late '60s that catapulted the Crown from among its local American competitors, Nissan loaded the Cefiro Elite and Brougham with creature and technological comforts while assiduously maintaining competitive pricing.

(The top-of-the-line Brougham goes for about P1.61 million cash.)

Still, despite the Cefiro being an Infiniti, the luxury car division of Nissan in the United States, both local models suffer in the rear leg-room department. The Mazda 323 Familia series, for instance, has bigger leg room than either the Elite or the Brougham, despite the 323 being an economy sedan.

Unfortunately, the local Mazda was killed by its American uncle, Ford. But that is another story worth telling another day.

Back to Expeditions

AND speaking of Ford, the gas-guzzling and humongous Expedition had become the vehicle of status within the Erap circle, specially since, like their idol, many of them are fat and overweight.

The diminutive Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in contrast, decreed at the start of her Malacañang ascension that the Expeditions should go, specially since almost all of them had been merely "borrowed" by the Cabinet secretaries from the Customs compound.

What do you know? A year after that GMA decree, a number of Cabinet secretaries have quietly resumed using the Expeditions. One is even going around town in a bigger, gray market Excursion.

On the other hand, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who is not even a Cabinet member, took the GMA directive seriously (probably because he was, as an Erap classmate, under attack during the early GMA days) and sold posthaste the relatively new black Expedition he had been using, including an identical back-up model for his bodyguards.

Now the official printer of pesos goes around in a terribly underpowered Nissan Terrano, while his bodyguards trail him in tin-can Tamaraw Revo.

Buenaventura's predecessor, the GMA-short Gabriel Singson, even twisted the knife further one day when he, seeing his understudy's transport, offered Buenaventura a ride in his personal, all-leather seats Expedition.

Heard through the grapevine

THE TWO male UP Law professors who dated their students outside of class hours have wisely chosen to tie the knot with their chosen partners.

The two students, in the meantime, have dropped out of law school, preferring to take private lessons in Lamaze 101.

To be fair, the UP Law professors had been simply following the after-office hours habits of their more publicly known colleagues over at the Economics department.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't urged to stop . . .

From page B1

but the Philippine automotive sector is still down 56 percent from its peak in 1996.

Aside from threatening the survival of the local industry, Emrick and Kameyama said that used car imports pose a serious risk to health and safety concerns of the public. The used vehicle imports are rudimentarily converted from right-hand to left-hand drive, they do not comply with the Clean Air Act requirements, and there is a lack of after-sales service.

The Amcham and JCCI heads said they were prepared to assist the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bureau of Customs to develop legal mechanisms to end this damaging practice.

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Dev't of Victoria gas find seen less costly

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said last Friday that the definition of commercial viability for the Victoria natural gas find in Tarlac might be "lenient."

"Commerciality for Victoria may be defined differently because the reserve is onshore (or inland)," Perez said. "Victoria could be viable even if the reserve is relatively less."

Producing the gas in Tarlac would be much cheaper than if it were under deep water as in the case of Malampaya, the official explained.

Investors spent about $2.5 billion to extract natural gas 3 km beneath the seabed and transport it to Batangas via a 504-km undersea pipeline.

Perez, who is also chair of Philippine National Oil Co., said two or three months was needed to drill more wells and do more tests in Victoria.

Project operator PNOC Energy Development Corp. has an 85-percent stake in the Victoria venture while PNOC Exploration Corp. holds the remaining 15 percent.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol earlier said Victoria's viability would be known by June after a seismic survey had been made.

The state firm drilled the Victoria-3 well using data from a decade-old seismic survey, according to persons familiar with the matter.

PNOC-EDC hopes to prove a reserve of 300 billion cubic feet of natural gas, which can fire up a 300-megawatt power plant.

Apostol said that based on the current gas flow rate, the firm's engineers estimate that the reserve could support at least a 6-mw plant.

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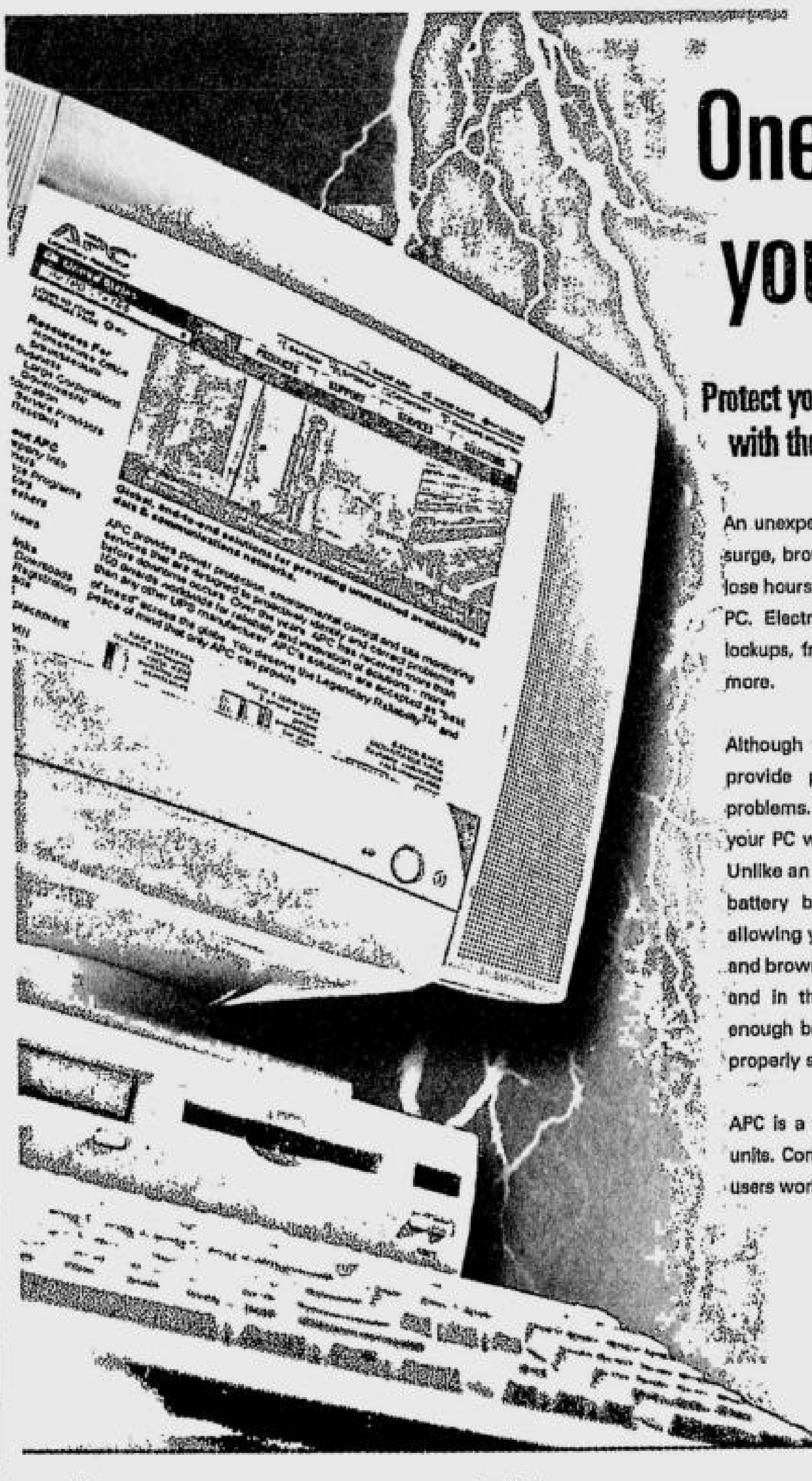

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PEACe bonds math baffles Senate

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ALL those criticizing the PEACe bonds—particularly the former senator whom the Filipino people rejected in the elections last May—betray an abysmal ignorance of the mathematics behind the transaction. It is time for a lesson in freshman algebra.

When the Bureau of Treasury put the PEACe bonds out to bid last October, the bidders were asked, in simple terms, "If the government pledges to pay you P35 billion 10 years from now, how much money will you lend the government today, compounding interest semi-annually?" Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. won with a bid of P10.168 billion.

How did RCBC do it? It charged an annual interest rate of 12.75 percent compounded semi-annually. Or, 6.375 (one-half of 12.75) percent interest for every six months. By the way, interest is the rent you pay for borrowing somebody's money. Borrowers call it interest, lenders prefer to call it yield.

After the first six months, government will owe P10.168 billion plus 6.375 percent of P10.168 billion, or a total of P10.816 billion. Deducting P10.186 billion from P10.816 billion leaves P648 million, which is the interest earned after six months. Notice the three factors in the transaction: first, the principal P (P10.168 billion); second, the annual rate R (12.75 percent); third, the time T (six months). Please keep the T, the time factor, in mind as you read on.

After the first six months, government borrows, or, as is now commonly said, rolls over the entire P10.816 billion for another six months. At the end of the second six months, government will owe P10.816 billion plus 6.375 percent of P10.816 billion, or a total of P11.506 billion. Notice: on the second six months, interest is charged on the interest earned the first six months. This process of charging interest on interest is called compounding the interest. Or, the money is being borrowed at compound interest.

To shortcut the computation, multiply P10.168 billion by 1.06375 twenty times (there are 20 six-month periods in 10 years) and you arrive—lo and behold!—at P35 billion, the face value of the 10-year bonds. Where did I get 1.06375? There is not enough space to explain. Please trust me.

Reverse the process and divide P35 billion by 1.06375 twenty times and you arrive—lo and behold!—at P10.168 billion. In mathematics, the P10.168 billion is the present value of P35 billion 10 years hence, computed at the annual rate of 12.75 percent compounded semi-annually.

How can anyone call the transaction a sham?

The foregoing computations are in long hand. But try it on your pocket calculator. It won't take seven months, not even seven minutes. It will take you even less time in short hand by using the equations and the interest tables found in algebra textbooks or investment manuals.

You should not deduct P10.168 billion from P35 billion, as a well-known NGO did. Because of the time factor (remember?), the two amounts are entirely different in character from each other, P10.168 billion is today, P35 billion is 10 years from now. You cannot deduct 10 *santol* from 35 *mangga*, especially if the *mangga* will be available only 10 years from now.

One thousand years before Christ, the ancient Phoenicians were using compound interest in their credit transactions around the Mediterranean. Today, actuaries in life insurance companies and managers in investment houses are served compound interest from breakfast to dinner.

Compound interest is taken up in the freshman year of engineering, management and accounting courses. My grandson Cayo studied it last year as a freshman in management engineering. He can teach the subject to the senators.

But compound interest is never taught in law school. Which explains why lawyers can talk up a storm but they can hardly count. Hey, don't get me wrong. Some of my best friends are lawyers.

(My e-mail address: 06hydragen@vasia.com)

Cautious trading seen this week

MARKET PLAY

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MARKET is expected to trade cautously this week as an overhang from the decision of California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers), the largest American pension fund, to pull out its portfolio investments in the Philippines and other Southeast Asian emerging markets.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost more than 20 points or 1.4 percent last week to slide back to the 1,300 level due largely to profit-taking that started in the middle of the week. The drop was sharpest on Friday when reports about Calpers' pullout hit the market.

The Phisix closed at 1,396.38 on Friday, weighed down by the commercial-industrial index and financial indices, which were down by 2 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively, during the week.

The stock market, however, is closed for business today on official holiday in commemoration of the Edsa Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship. The market will resume trading tomorrow.

"Calpers' exposure to the Philippines is equivalent to two or three trading days. I don't know how soon they are going to execute the directive but any fund manager could use it as an excuse to sell more. This may also give long-term investors the opportunity to buy," said Mike Ordinanza of PCI Capital.

Calpers is estimated to have some $25 million worth of investments in the local stock market.

"It's really a test on how strong the confidence on the market is. Hopefully, it's just a one-time sell-off. Since nobody seems inclined to follow, I doubt whether it will cast an overhang for a long time," he explained.

Ordinanza said trading would be cautious this week but added that after a few days, jitters could ease and bargain hunting would likely resume.

Enrique Sta. Ana, associate sales director at foreign broker DBS Vickers, said the market was prone to profit-taking after a strong rebound since mid-November.

"We need to correct in order to form a solid foundation. The market has been going up for so long that the foundation will be shaky without some correction," Sta. Ana said, noting that 1,380 could be a good support level.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said investors had jumped the gun in disposing of positions ahead of the announced selling position by the Calpers but noted that some opportunities might arise soon.

"The market may test the 1,360 to 1,380 range but some bargain hunting may be possible, particularly on select blue chips which posted the sharpest declines," Yap said.

Among last week's decliners are Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Corp., ABS-CBN, JG Summit, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Megaworld Corp., Metro Pacific Corp., Petron Corp., San Miguel Corp. A & B, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Philippine National Bank, Jollibee Foods Corp. and International Container Terminal Services Inc.

Those that bucked the downtrend last week were Belle Corp., Filinvest Land Inc., Music Corp., Equitable PCI Bank, Benpres Corp., First Philippine Holdings, Meralco A&B and Ayala Land Inc.

In the meantime, the Philippine Stock Exchange started extended trading on Wednesday.

"Give it at least a week or two more. We haven't seen afternoon trading in the stock exchange for the last 35 years and some of the clients are still out for lunch or playing golf," veteran stock broker Irving Ackerman of I. Ackerman & Co. said.

Ackerman said the 1-2:30 additional afternoon trading had yet to sink into the consciousness of other investors even if it had been much talked about in the newspapers. But once people get used to doing business in the afternoon, he said trading volume would further pick up.

PSE director Harry Liu earlier said the initial extension was but a pilot test, which, if successful, could lead to even longer trading hours that foreign brokers were asking for.

GOINGS-ON

Business journalism awards

CITIBANK N.A. has announced the search for the recipient of the Citi Journalistic Excellence Awards for 2001.

Now on its 10th year, the Citi Journalistic Excellence Awards recognizes Filipino business journalists who write well-researched feature articles on trade, banking and finance, the economy, and other business issues.

Citibank public affairs officer Lillibeth Fajardo says that Citibank continues to hold the awards because it believes that "informed reporting on business, economic and financial issues create a more educated public and help promote a better business climate as well."

The Citibank tilt is open to business feature stories published in any of the national dailies between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2001. A yearlong monitoring system was employed to keep track of prospective entries to the contest.

ETPI's billing data system

IN a move to power up the data-crunching capability of its network, Eastern Telecoms tapped New Jersey, USA-based Telegence Corp. for the Telegence DS4000 Data Server billing mediation device.

Eastern Telecoms chief financial officer Romeo B. Bachoco said the billing mediation device would facilitate fraud detection, credit control, generate reports faster for monitoring and analysis, plus improve billing system to near-real tune generation of call records.

Bank report says it's too early for Asia to celebrate

SINGAPORE—Rising stock markets may be luring confidence back into Asia, but there were few signs of a strong recovery in exports, which dampened celebrations, Standard Chartered Bank said Friday.

In a report, the bank noted that the world's top performing stock markets in dollar terms so far this year were in Asia, headed by the Philippines with a 24-percent increase.

Thailand's stock market has grown 20 percent, Indonesia 19 percent, South Korea 13 percent and India 9 percent.

"There are essentially two factors behind this performance: optimism about export prospects as the world economy and especially the technology sector recovers and good domestic stories based on economic reform and stronger consumer demand," Standard Chartered said.

But despite the growing optimism, the bank cautioned that the signs point more to a stabilization of economic activity rather than a strong recovery.

"In reality there are few signs of a strong revival in Asian exports. Year-on-year comparisons are still negative," it said.

While there were indications of an improvement in Singapore, India and the Philippines, exports from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan looked soft, and Indonesian exports have fallen.

"Optimism about Asian export prospects is therefore largely an act of faith," it said.

Improvement in the US orders for semiconductors and a revival in the purchasing managers' indices in Asia were "consistent at best with a stabilization of activity, rather than firm growth," it added.

With external demand still weak, the focus was now on domestic fundamentals to stimulate the economy, the bank said, adding that South Korea leads in this aspect.

Unemployment in South Korea for January was at a four-year low of 3.2 percent, compared with those of Singapore and Hong Kong. However, strong consumer spending in South Korea has also led to a rapid growth in debt.

"The balance of risks to growth in key Asian economies is therefore still on the downside," Standard Chartered said. ***AFP***

Creditors seek more time to decide on NSC liquidation

By Elena R. Torrijos

CREDITOR-banks are seeking more time to get their boards' approvals for the proposed liquidation of mothballed National Steel Corp. that, they hope, will be acceptable to the steel company's Malaysian owners.

Securities and Exchange Commission-appointed liquidator Danilo Concepcion said he had asked the SEC for two more months to submit his recommendation because some of the foreign creditor-banks of NSC have yet to get the go-ahead signal of their head offices on this.

The proposal, which will be submitted later to Malaysian debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., involves spinning off the assets of NSC into a new company that will be 80-20 owned by creditor-banks and the Malaysians, respectively. In exchange for equities in the asset holding company, the banks will write down their loans to NSC leaving only P2 billion outstanding.

Some of NSC's biggest creditor banks, including Philippine National Bank, have approved the proposal. However, the other major creditors, including Paris-based Credit Agricole, are still awaiting their boards' approval.

Earlier, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II and a team of government officials and banks went to Kuala Lumpur to seek the consent of Pengurusan on the planned writing down of the Malaysian debt rehabilitation agency's $800 million exposure to NSC.

Roxas said the Philippine team discussed a more "permanent solution" to the liquidation of Danaharta's 80-percent stake in NSC, which has been closed for the past two years.

DISCLOSURES

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. reset its annual stockholders' meeting to May 28 at 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Record date is set on April 26.

* * *

SAN MIGUEL Corp. will hold an investors' briefing on its 2001 full-year results at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 28 at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

* * *

AYALA Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19 at 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati City.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 18 at 10 a.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila, Makati City. Record date is set on March 8.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Manulife Financial Corp.** will be held on April 30. Record date is set on March 15.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. announced that Alistair Cox had resigned as director of the company effective Feb. 21. Alfonso Recto Jr. was appointed director to replace Cox.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Central Azucarera de Tarlac** were Pedro Cojuangco, president and chair; Josephine Reyes, vice president and treasurer; Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Ernesto Teopaco, vice presidents; Nereo Mendoza, assistant vice president and assistant treasurer; Emmanuel Cochiro, assistant vice president; Arcadio Lopez, secretary; and Fernando Cojuangco, assistant secretary.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 22, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	3,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	95	100	95	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67.5	67.5	66.5	66.5	3,453,800
China Banking Corp.	580	580	580	580	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	31	31	737,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.3	245,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	214	210	211	82,640
Philippine National Bank	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	3,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	9,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	18.75	19.25	136,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	161,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	133,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	1015	980	1010	69,080
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	30	30	11,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.69	9,770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	815	800	800	15,690
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0875	0.09	58,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3	3	30,000
Piltel	0.59	0.6	0.56	0.59	12,370,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	495	495	485	490	510,960
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	72,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32	30.5	31.5	808,800
Manila Electric Co. B	49	49	45.5	46	5,228,500
Petron Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.9	1.9	12,784,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	29,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.95	2.8	2.8	8,330,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	4,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	540,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	6	6.1	6	6.1	8,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	52,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	79,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.25	153,200
RFM Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	1,301,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	48.5	48	48	347,400
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	65.5	62.5	63	681,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.68	0.68	0.61	0.61	260,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.66	30,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.5	11,082,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.88	950,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.83	730,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	50,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	510,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.91	0.88	0.9	22,270,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	680,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	3,930,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.13	35,010,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	920,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	~~1,818,800~~
Global Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	2,300,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	370,000
Ionics Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.1	87,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.9	904,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.82	0.85	5,940,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.38	9,180,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.38	0.39	9,810,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	540,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	150,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	30,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	0.95	0.95	64,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.12	0.095	0.12	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	82,800
Steniel Manufacturing	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.26	220,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.53	15,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	110,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	8,700
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30.5	31	30	30.5	1,543,600
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	10
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	24,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	15,800,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	480,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	10,550,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	7,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	11,810,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.34	2.34	11,833,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	1,590,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	4,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.9	8,988,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0925	0.095	0.09	0.09	3,600,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.042	24,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	950,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	6,520,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	9,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	970,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	870,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,300,000
Interport Res.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	47,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.225	0.225	590,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	13,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.095	0.1	11,510,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.22	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	5,146,820	349,299,390.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	369,271,860	902,882,090.00
PRO	71,925,000	210,431,570.00
Mining	57,310,000	3,280,650.00
OIL	101,860,000	2,032,550.00
GRAND TOTALS:	605,525,680	1,467,957,750.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	561.81	DOWN 12.56
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,803.21	DOWN 68.81
PRO	624.88	DOWN 20.96
Mining	1,404.50	UP 3.11
OIL	2.04	DOWN 0.17
All Shares Index	746.99	DOWN 13.70
Composite	1,396.38	DOWN 47.06

NO. OF ADVANCES: 12; NO. OF DECLINES: 86; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 136; NO. OF TRADES: 5,321

PLDT chief seeks review of telecom policies

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan is pushing for a thorough review of the government's '90s-era telecommunication policy to make it more relevant to the needs of the new millennium.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Pangilinan said, "the deregulation of the telecommunications industry in the 1990s was a welcome change in government policy—and perhaps the right decision—at that time."

However, Pangilinan said, "current realities and the fact that a number of telephone companies, particularly the LEC (Local Exchange Carrier) operators, are facing difficulties, it may be incumbent upon the industry and the government to revisit existing rules with a view to making a determination if they remain valid or relevant today."

Pangilinan noted that the financial troubles hounding LEC providers here are also plaguing traditional providers in the United States where the boom in wireless phones and the Internet have taken market share from landline services. Pangilinan, however, refused to elaborate on his proposed reforms.

The National Telecommunications Commission had earlier hinted that it was keen on scrapping rules on service areas where phone companies could operate. Industry observers reckoned that the plan would allow telecommunication companies to focus as well as expand on profitable areas and generate savings for LECs with their reduced compliance with the rollout rates.

It was in 1993 that President Ramos chopped down the decades-long telecommunications monopoly of PLDT (then chaired by Antonio Cojuangco) with two key executive orders—EO 59 which required PLDT to open its backbone for interconnection with other players, and EO 109 which carved up the Philippines into several service area scheme (SAS) to allow international gateway operators to provide LEC services in served and unserved areas, including Metro Manila.

Two years later, Congress enacted RA 7925 (1995) entitled "An Act to Promote and Govern the Development of Philippine Telecommunications and the Delivery of Public Telecommunications Services" which cemented the government's policy toward a free-for-all market in the industry.

While consumers clearly benefited from the onset of stiffer competition with cheaper and better service, the industry's deregulation has proven to be a bane for local telecommunications companies.

Less than a decade after these sweeping reforms were made, LEC providers such as the Lopez-owned Bayan Telecommunications, Digital Telecommunications, Eastern Telecommunications, Isla Communications, Pilipino Telephone Corp., Philippine Global Communications, Globe Telecoms and Bell Telecoms are now saddled by huge dollar-denominated debts and have very few takers for their landline services. Filipinos apparently favor wireless over fixed line phones with cellular phone subscribers outnumbering telephone subscribers, 3 to 1.

AFFLUENT CUSTOMERS

Citibank launches new service

CITIBANK, the country's largest foreign bank, is introducing a new financial service for retail banking customers.

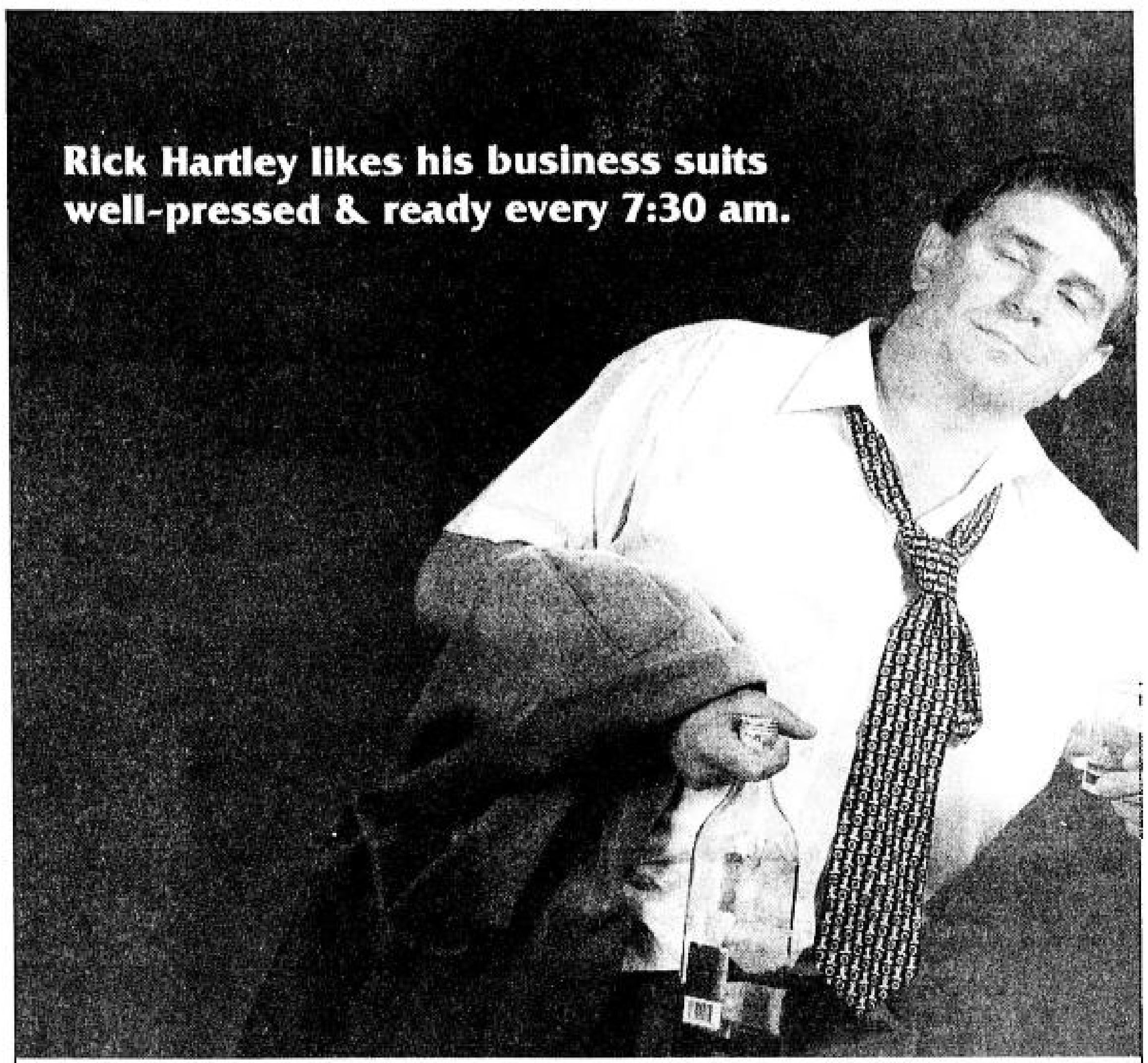
Called the CitiGold Wealth Management Banking, the bank said it would give its affluent customers access to customized financial planning and portfolio tracking services.

Despite the sluggish economy, Citibank said it was launching the banking service that is also being offered to its clients across Asia. Thus far, it has been launched in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore.

According to Citibank country business manager Nina Aguas, "it is in fact the current economic environment that creates a need for Wealth Management Banking. Customers are now looking at ways to preserve and grow their wealth."

Citibank said the new service offers customers a suite of wealth management solutions incorporating the CitiGold Wealth Planner, a powerful, proprietary computer software designed to perform a comprehensive financial analysis; an ongoing Portfolio Review service which tracks portfolio performance versus goals and market changes, and team-based relationship management that sees the client through the planning and management of his financial portfolio lifecycles.

By opening and maintaining an account of $100,000 or its peso equivalent, one becomes a CitiGold Wealth Management Banking customer and enjoys access to tailor-fit financial services as well as various perks and privileges.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DR. SALVADOR Z. ARANETA: EDUCATOR AND CHAMPION OF CAPITALISM FOR ALL

FEATI University proudly honors a founder of the University. A man of vision and courage, Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta called for a program of capitalism for all. This challenge must be heeded by the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Administration and make it the top priority today.

Dr. Araneta explained capitalism for all does not mean taking away from the "haves" to give to the "have-nots", not by dividing the pie but increasing the size of the pie, in order to create new capitalist and industrial wealth.

His significant books, *Christian Democracy for the Philippines*, *The Bayanikasan Constitution – For the Federal Republic of the Philippines*, and *World Government, The United Nations Reborn – Charter and Supporting Views*, will be launched and released today at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City, along with the commemorative stamp issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation.

A historical marker of the National Historical Institute will also be installed at the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation, the first private agricultural school after World War II which he founded and turned into a foundation.

Dr. Araneta strongly believed in the Filipino people, their innate good nature and their ability given the necessary tools and incentives.

Believing that every Filipino should be the beneficiary of our abundant natural resources, he fought the interventionist and exploitative policies of the United States so that conditions favorable to the establishment of local heavy industries could be realized.

As Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources under President Magsaysay, Dr. Araneta addressed the unemployment problem of two million Filipinos.

He proposed a new Deal Program of national development, similar to the "New Deal Package" of President Roosevelt. "If a government can spend money or create wealth to win a war, why not", he asked, "to win a war on poverty?"

To solve the squatters problem and decongest Manila, he urged that squatters be relocated to well-planned agro-industrial settlements in less populated regions. At the same time, he said government should give incentives for the establishment of industries to provide employment for the transferees.

"A family owning a home is a great stabilizing factor. It provides the family a sense of security and self-respect," Dr. Araneta said. Thus he urged entrepreneurs to go into a bold low-cost housing program.

His campaign to "Buy Filipino, Protect Filipino Retailers and Industries, particularly infant industries" is not only relevant under today's conditions, it has also become a matter of survival.

Mabuhay ang Filipino, Mabuhay si Dr. Araneta! From the FEATI Board of Trustees, Officers, Students, Employees, and Alumni.

Go High!
(The FEATI Story)

"Enlightenment and service for God and country" is Feati University's commitment in the new millennium.

This is the principle that Dr. Salvador Araneta, the founder of Feati, stood for in his lifetime. The university is joining the various events to celebrate Dr. Araneta's birth centenary today including the presentation of a commemorative stamp issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation, the launch of three books containing his speeches and writings, the unveiling of a National Historical Institute historical marker, and a eucharistic offering of 100 masses for universal peace.

Dr. Araneta, in his thought-provoking book, *Educational Philosophy of a University President*, written in 1971, has a chapter titled "The Song for Universal Peace," wherein he wrote, "A civilization geared to technology to remain viable must constantly lift the levels of human civilization. The age of plenty is not only possible, but a necessity." But a "spiritual advancement" must also run parallel to material progress.

Dr. Reynaldo Pena, Feati University's newly appointed president, has vowed to stand by Dr. Araneta's principles. Dr. Pena, former director of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), is the fourth president of the University, the successor of Mr. Jose M. Segovia.

With the new president, the University's thrust is enlightenment in knowledge and human values for the individual to be of better service to God, country and family.

Feati's story has been one of daring and courage. Pioneering in aviation right after the war, the Far Eastern Air Transport Inc. was founded by Dr. Araneta and Eugenio Lopez and rose from the devastation of the city of Manila. It started with local flights and then expended to include flights to Hong Kong, Sharghai (China) and San Francisco (USA). In no time, "Go High" meant a ride above the sky aboard a Feati aircraft.

The school was founded in 1946 by Dr. Araneta and his wife, Victoria Lopez Araneta, originally meant to service the needs of the aircraft. However, in 1965, aside from aeronautical engineering, Feati University opened courses in marine engineering. Since its inception, Feati's Maritime Education Department under the Institute of Engineering and Technology has been consistent in its mission to produce world-caliber deck and engine officers.

Feati's Maritime Department is a quality-assured department duly certified by an international classification body in 2001 to have conformed with the BS EN ISO 9001:1994. It is also duly registered and certified by AJA Registrars Ltd. and has been issued by CHED a confirmation that it complies with the rigid requirements of the commission.

Dr. Araneta (extreme right) with former President DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL, left, and Prime Minister TUNKU ABDUL RAKMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ of the Federation of Malaya (now Malaysia) during the Prime Minister's investiture at the Araneta University in 1959.

For the school year 2002, Feati University welcomes its incoming enrollees with P40 million worth of physical improvements and scholarships to honor the birth centenary of Dr. Araneta.

In store are the following: P17 million worth of additional laboratory equipment, books and other facilities, P10 million worth of renovated classrooms and offices, P10 million more for the Salvador Araneta Centenary scholarship, and the re-opening of the high school department.

The high school curriculum, however, will be infused with appropriate technical subjects to provide the students with both academic and practical skills. Thus, it will become a technical high school offering additional training courses in the following areas: computer education, CADD, automotive technology, practical electricity, radio/TV mechanic, machine shop technology, refrigeration and air-conditioning and computer graphics animation. This means that after graduation, students are better equipped to face the future and make a choice—either to proceed to college or temporarily stop schooling to work.

The school's computer center has also been updating its system with the latest software for architecture, arts and engineering. The Aeronautical Department located at the newly renovated Paterno Building has added a Cessna light aircraft for the practical training of aeronautical students. The Marine Department, on the other hand, has installed new state-of-the-art simulators equipped with highly innovative communication and navigational tools, including a local station for the global positioning of receivers. Other departments in arts and sciences have also upgraded their respective equipment and laboratories.

Feati University takes pride in honoring its founder with these accomplishments and looks forward to producing graduates ready to meet the challenges of the new millenium.

Nationalists all!
(L-R) DR. SALVADOR ARANETA, CLARO M. RECTO (who wrote the foreword of Araneta's book Christian Democracy For the Philippines) and GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, the first President of the Philippine Republic.

To the Family of Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta

Please accept our family's sincerest felicitations on the occasion of the Centennial Birth Anniversary of Dr. Salvador Zaragoza Araneta.

We have nothing but the highest esteem for Dr. Araneta not only for his truly nationalistic approach to the development of education in our country, most especially in the field of agriculture and related sciences, but also for his exemplary service to our nation as Secretary of Agriculture under the Administration of President Ramon Magsaysay. My late father, Foreign Secretary Narciso R. Ramos had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Araneta during the Ministers' Meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Singapore in 1955, where they served as alternate leaders for the meeting. Working together, they were able to come up with the first Comprehensive Philippine Report on the Colombo Plan. As emerging leaders during the Commonwealth period, both of them were considered among the articulate young Filipinos advocating Philippine independence.

As we celebrate the centennial of Dr. Araneta's birth, it is heartening to see that the seeds of his vision have taken hold and grown, and are being propagated by the administration, faculty, students, and alumni of his legacy, the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation.

We hope that more of our fellow countrymen and women follow the example of this outstanding Filipino.

Mabuhay!!!

Fidel V. Ramos
Former President
Republic of the Philippines
1992 - 1998

Three Generations, One Vision.

Don Salvador Araneta

Jose Concepcion Jr.

Jose Concepcion III

Celebrating 100 Years of Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta

It all started with a man and his dream.

Dr. Salvador Araneta, noted nationalist-constitutionalist, philanthropist and pioneer in agro-industrial development, first envisioned a Philippines that would have its own flour milling capabilities, to reduce the country's dependence on flour imports. In August 1957, despite opposition from foreign interests and local traders, Dr. Araneta founded Republic Flour Mills Inc., the first flour mill in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia.

A highly principled man with unquestionable integrity, Dr. Araneta was an inspiration to many of his colleagues and those whose lives he touched. He left a legacy founded on love for his Creator, his country and his desire to help build a strong Filipino. These ideals have been upheld by the two generations that succeeded him at the Presidency of RFM: the equally passionate nationalist Jose Concepcion Jr.; and Jose Concepion III, widely known as a highly-driven young entrepreneur who built strong Filipino food and beverage brands like Cosmos/Pop Cola and Sarsi Rootbeer, Selecta, White King and Swift.

Don Salvador's faith in the strength and conquering spirit of the Filipino remains as the foundation for the robust growth of RFM. What started out as a simple flour mill, is now one of the leading food and beverage conglomerates in the country.

As we celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of our founder, Dr. Salvador Araneta, we at RFM pay tribute to the moving spirit behind this company, and commit to carry on his vision, his ideals, his passion, and his faith in the Filipino.

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Gov't guarantees on public, private sector loans hit P493.4B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CONTINGENT liabilities of the national government as of November went up to P493.365 billion due mainly to the sovereign guarantee extended to the borrowings of National Power Corp., a source in the government said.

The amount represents guarantees on loans that the government will have to pay in the event the borrowers will fail to settle their obligations on time.

As of end-November, the government's contingent liabilities rose by 0.41 percent or by P2.071 billion from P491.284 billion in the previous month and by P11.257 billion from P482.098 billion as of end-2000.

Aside from the Napocor, loans of private projects such as the MRT-3 of the Metro Rail Transit Corp. and the skyway of Indonesian firm PT Citra were also covered by state guarantees for political and commercial risks.

Last year, the government paid P3.43 billion of the debts of the Metro Rail group when it failed to service its loans. It was the biggest contingent liability that became actual last year.

The government may have to pay the same amount this year if the MRT-3 consortium would continue to post losses.

Also a drain to the state coffers were the liabilities assumed by the government for the San Roque multipurpose project of Napocor, the rural electrification project of the National Electrification Authority, the projects of the Philippine National Railway and the Light Transit Authority.

Last November, the national government borrowed $450 million from the Euro bond market in behalf of the state-run power firm. Napocor also borrowed some P15 billion from the government to finance its expenses and to pay maturing loans

A government source noted that Napocor's P200 billion in debts to foreign creditors accounted for the bulk of the government's existing contingent liabilities.

Of the total contingent debts as of November, foreign liabilities accounted for 94.684 percent or P467.132 billion while domestic obligations accounted for the balance of 5.32 percent or P26.223 billion.

As of November, the debt stock of the national government stood at P2.377 trillion or up 9.4 percent from P2.172 trillion in the previous year.

The country's debt stock rose in November because of the government's aggressive borrowings from the domestic market and a weaker currency.

The government used an average peso-dollar exchange rate of 52 to $1 in computing its obligations in November compared with an average of 51.95 to $1 in October and 49.45 to $1 in November 2000.

During the 11-month period, borrowings from the local market went up by 16.36 percent to P1.255 trillion from P1.079 trillion in November 2000 and up by 2.5 percent from P1.224 trillion in October.

The debt stock released by the national government included only the state's local and foreign borrowings. The debt stock reported by the BSP included the obligations incurred by the private sector.

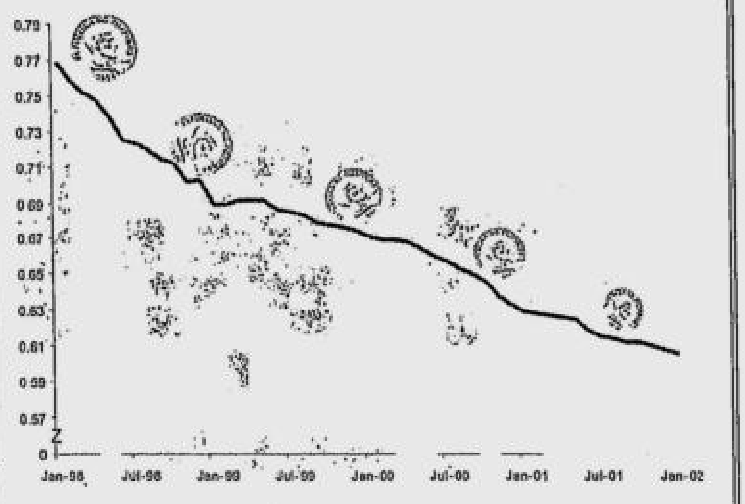
As of September last year, the debt stock reported by the BSP rose by 3 percent to $52.426 billion from $450.895 billion. The external debt stock reported by the central bank increased by $1.53 billion during the third quarter last year.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Purchasing power of the peso*

(January 1998 to January 2002)



*Purchasing Power of the Peso = 1/ Consumer price index x 100
Source: NSO

BASED on the consumer price index for January 2002, people have to shell out P1 for what used to be worth only P0.61 in 1994. The purchasing power of the peso last January was 21 percent lower compared with its value at the start of 1998.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PNOC-EDC, Indon firm in $20-M joint venture

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PNOC Energy Development Corp. is pursuing with an Indonesian firm a $20-million, 20-megawatt geothermal power plant in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

In a news conference on Friday, company chair Sergio Apostol said PNOC-EDC would send a team to Jakarta next week to discuss terms of a "sharing agreement" with Perusahaan Pertambangan Minyak and Gas Bumi Negara (Pertamina).

Pertamina is the counterpart of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., PNOC-EDC's parent firm.

Apostol said tests showed that Sulawesi could support a 20-mw power plant that would use heat from the earth's core to produce electricity.

The Sulawesi joint venture is part of a memorandum of understanding signed last year by Manila and Jakarta.

Under this memorandum, the Philippines will explore the possibility of buying coal from Indonesia on a "long-term but below-market-price basis."

It also allows the Philippines to consider importing natural gas from Indonesia to compliment its own reserve in the Camago-Malampaya area.

Indonesia, on the other hand, is asking the Philippines, through PNOC, to help it develop its geothermal resources.

BayanTel upbeat on mobile phone business

By Abigail L. Ho

LOPEZ-OWNED Bayan Telecommunications Inc. is confident that it can still get a substantial share of the local cellular phone market despite the strong foothold already established by dominant players Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc.

In a telephone interview, BayanTel chief finance officer Gary Olivar said the less than 15-percent penetration of the market by existing cellular phone providers meant there was still a big room for new players.

Globe and Smart, plus their subsidiaries Isla Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp., have more than 11 million subscribers as of end-2001.

Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. is also about to break into the cellular service market. It will launch half of its commercial operations in June and the other half in October.

But Olivar expressed confidence that BayanTel would still be able to compete if it could get the much-needed financial assistance from investors.

The debt-strapped company is currently in talks with several potential investors, that include operators, suppliers and equity investors.

"I don't keep track anymore of exactly how many companies we are talking to, but there are several. It's really hard to keep track of the talks," he explained.

Right now, Olivar disclosed that the company was "open to anybody" with the capital to infuse and with any help to offer.

It cannot move on with a concrete plan for its cellular business, however, as it is still engaged in a wrestling match with rival firm Express Telecommunications Co. for its mobile phone license.

Extelcom is trying to block BayanTel's foray into the mobile service arena by contesting a Supreme Court decision that gave BayanTel the right to a cellular phone license.

It earlier filed a case against the Lopez-owned company, contesting the National Telecommunications Commission's decision to grant BayanTel's application for a cellular mobile telephone system (CMTS) license.

But Olivar said in an earlier interview that BayanTel was willing to team up with Extelcom for its cellular phone business.

Extelcom, which is 47-percent owned by BayanTel, is about to delve into the global system for mobile communications (GSM) market. It is the pioneer in the local analog market.

Bankers' summit set in Singapore

ASIA'S leading bankers are set to attend the Asian Banker Summit 2002 later this month to take the pulse of their industry.

The summit is the principal gathering of senior professionals on transformational issues affecting financial services in the Asia-Pacific region.

Organized by The Asian Banker, the leading intelligence company in the financial services industry, the summit will be held at the Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore, formerly The Westin, on Feb. 28 to March 1.

The Asian Banker Summit will be held at a time when the industry is reeling from forces that have transformed the landscape very quickly.

The theme for this year's summit is: "A Time for Directions in a World of New Realities."

The Asian Banker Summit attracts about 350 senior delegates from all across the region.

For the first time, high-level delegates from China will be attending the summit.

Because the agenda focuses successfully on transformational issues that scans the entire franchise, the summit attracts a wide spectrum of professionals.

Chief executives, executive vice presidents and heads of retail and corporate banking businesses as well as operations and technology are expected to attend the summit. Investment bankers with a focus on the financial institutions business, management consultants and technology partners will also be well represented.

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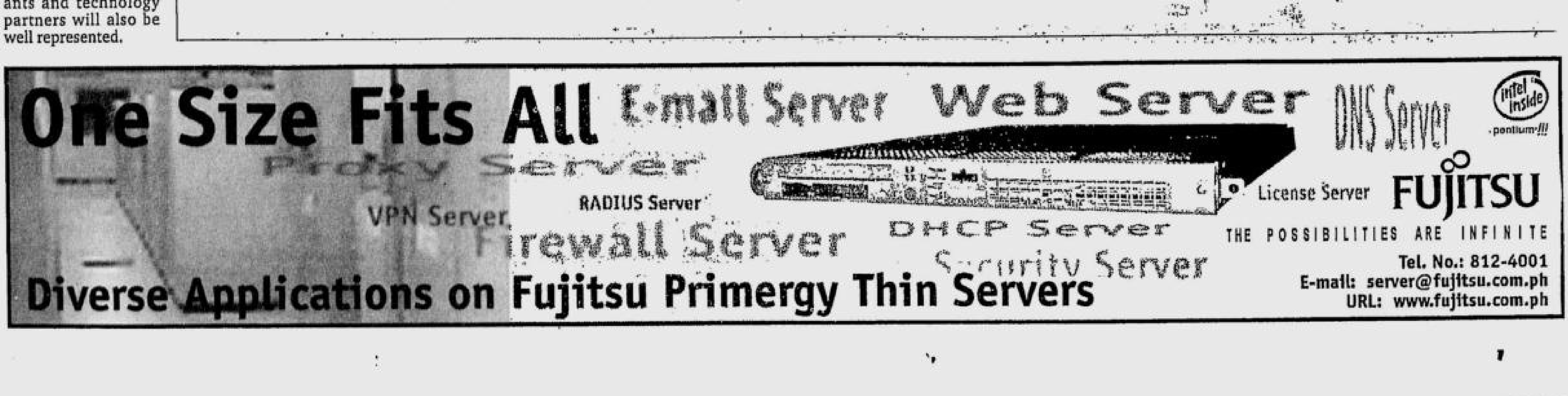
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Business ties to politics remain despite Enron

NEW YORK—The Enron scandal has shown that political connections don't always pay off and can even be a liability.

But Washington insiders say they expect corporate America's lobbyists will keep knocking on the door as the potential rewards still outweigh the risks.

"They have a big interest, and a little bit of embarrassment isn't going to stop them from trying to get what they want," said Bill Allison, managing editor at the Center for Public Integrity, a Washington think tank. "Unless there's a spectacular bankruptcy like Enron's, most of these things go under the radar screen."

Enron Corp. has been pilloried in Congress and in the media since it collapsed into bankruptcy last year, with no rescue effort from Washington despite Enron's generous donations to President George W. Bush and both political parties.

Hot-button issues

But analysts say that's because Enron's accounting abuses were so egregious that no one dared come to its aid. Government links don't always play out in favor of corporations on hot-button issues.

Even Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Harvey Pitt, who, as a private attorney, represented the accounting profession, is under pressure to crack down harder on corporate auditing firms to boost investor confidence, as politicians—and his predecessors at the SEC—slam his current proposals for not going far enough.

Wall Street analysts had also predicted the Bush administration would move to limit costly asbestos-related liabilities. Yet amid efforts by Vice President Dick Cheney to avoid showing favoritism toward a company where he used to serve as chief executive, oilfield giant Halliburton Co. now says it does not expect such legislation this year.

It pays off

Still, the vast majority of companies with less serious and less publicized problems will not temper their efforts to influence politics, insiders say, because while having an "in" in Washington might cause turbulence, it usually pays off.

Since the demise of the energy giant, the public's radar has focused with increased scrutiny on corporate ethics and political ties. While politicians are lambasted for their conflicts of interest, forcing them to distance themselves from corporate ties, the companies involved still generally benefit more than they suffer.

Cheney has come under fire for policies generated by his energy task force last year that called for more oil and gas drilling and deregulated wholesale electricity, amid criticism that the group was heavily influenced by Enron.

And US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, the former chief of Alcoa Inc., the world's largest aluminum producer, has been repeatedly quizzed on his ties to the company.

Alcoa has not been known to strongly lobby the Treasury Department, Allison said. Yet to its benefit, "O'Neill is going to have a much more corporate outlook than somebody who is chosen from a different field of endeavor," Allison added.

Enron also remains sheathed in a cobweb of ties to Washington, including widespread campaign donations, former Chair Kenneth Lay's links to the current Bush administration, and apparent attempts to lobby Treasury on the failed company's behalf.

Flow will continue

Yet for all the public cynicism and scrutiny generated by Corporate America's collusion with politics, the flow of both people and capital from companies to the government and back again will continue, experts say.

"That is so entrenched in the process right now that I don't think a scandal like Enron is going to change that," said Larry Noble, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics. "These people who move from government to corporate board rooms and then back again bring a lot to companies."

Moreover, the flow of human capital means experts in certain areas of industry and the economy are inserted into the federal government at high levels, which can mean a more sympathetic ear.

Reuters

A POTENTIAL bidder for the forthcoming three-day auction of equipment from Enron Corp. wanders around the foyer of the energy firm's London office. The auction, which starts on Feb.27, will be carried live over the Internet and will sell items valued at 15 million pounds consisting of over 3,000 computers, 4, 000 monitors, the entire telephone system, executive furniture, gym and restaurant equipment. AP

Wall St. being held back by 'trust' issues

NEW YORK—Trust, or the lack of it, is keeping Wall Street trapped in a narrow range, analysts said after another mixed week for stocks despite strong signs of a US economic recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose a modest 0.65 percent in the week ending Friday to close at 9,968.15 while the tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 4.46 percent to 1,724.54.

The broader Standard and Poor's 500 index shed 1.28 percent to 1,089.84.

"The market is being bombarded on all sides with trust questions and questions of growth," Ehrenkrantz, King and Nussbaum senior markets strategist Barry Hyman said after reports that banking giant JP Morgan Chase was being probed for Enron-related matters.

"There is a big question about how the whole financial system will be impacted by these trust issues. These companies (like JP Morgan) safeguard the whole financial system, and if they're hurt the system suffers."

Ironically, investors are ignoring growing signs that the US economy is approaching recovery if not already out of the recession that began last March.

The government is expected to issue its revised estimate for fourth-quarter gross domestic product on Wednesday, the same day that Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan speaks before Congress.

Analysts said a report showing a lower US trade deficit could push the calculation for the October-December US economic growth rate to more than one percent compared to an initial estimate of a 0.2-percent growth.

The Conference Board said its key index of leading economic indicators pointed to a stronger and earlier recovery than many had expected.

"The rush of good news has prompted many forecasters to proclaim that the recession is already over," said a research note from Wachovia Securities.

"Our own estimate has the recession ending in the first quarter."

Alfred Goldman of AG Edwards said the improvement would eventually help stocks.

DA reaffirms legitimacy of NFHFI officers

(File photo) **President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo** inducts into office new officers of NFHFI. Shown in the picture are NFHFI **Chairman Gabriel Uy** and **Vice Chairman Rene Eleria** (3rd & 4th from L). Also in the induction is **Hon. Sec. Angelito Sarmiento**, Pres'l Adviser on Agricultural Modernization.

Department of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has issued a letter to the chairman of National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. (NFHFI) affirming the legitimacy of the federation's new set of officers who have been recently inducted into office by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The said letter dated January 29, 2002 which was addressed to NFHFI Chairman Mr. Gabriel Uy was backed with the recommendation of DA's legal department stressing that the current set of officers should be given prima facie presumption as NFHFI's lawful representatives.

Montemayor's reaffirmation of the legitimacy of the current set of officers has further entrenched its leadership under which majority of hog farmers' associations all over the Philippines are warranted of proper representation in the government.

Since their induction, the NFHFI officers have been actively implementing stringent measures and programs on strategy formulation, team-building and information dissemination as means to curb the problems besetting the hog industry. Among the predicaments being resolutely discussed by the federation are illegal importation of pork, high cost of production, inadequate technological capability, high tariff rates, and the entry of other ASEAN countries, particularly Thailand and Vietnam, in the pork trade which challenges the competitiveness of local hog raisers.

Having earned the recognition from the Department of Agriculture and no less from the President herself, NFHFI officers vowed to live up to the hopes of the Filipino hog farmer who trustingly hands the leash to his leaders, believing he will get through the rough and tumble of raising pigs for a living.

For further inquiries on the various programs of NFHFI and to receive a free copy of their official newsletter, *The Philippine Hog Farmer*, write to the Office of the Secretary, 3rd Floor, Room 305, R & C Tirol Building, EDSA corner Scout Albano St., Quezon City or call Rose Cenaro or Dolly Cube at tel. no.: 924-8884.

ADVT.

US to release new consumer price index, likely to show lower inflation

WASHINGTON—The US government said Friday it would begin releasing a new monthly consumer price index series, which would likely show somewhat lower price inflation over time.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said the new "chained" CPI index, to be released starting with the July report, would be a compliment, not a replacement, for the current index.

Because the chained index will incorporate substitutions that consumers make in purchases within a category on a monthly basis, it is expected to show a lower rate of inflation.

For example, if apples surge in price over a month, consumers generally would switch to other fruits, lessening the overall impact of the apple price increase, said John Greenlees, director of the CPI program at the BLS.

Recalculating past data from 1990-1995 using the new series, the BLS said the average annual difference in the two CPI measures was 0.17 percentage points, with average annual inflation recorded at 2.9 percent using the chained index and 3.07 percent using the existing index.

This is "our best guess going forward from now" for the average annual difference in the two CPI indices, Greenlees said.

The aim is to reach "a closer approximation of a 'cost of living' index than the present measure," the BLS said.

However, the BLS will continue using the current CPI series as its main reference, Greenlees said.

The new series will not be seasonally adjusted, given that it takes about five years to develop enough history to establish seasonal patterns, he explained.

AFP

Economists raise forecasts for US growth

NEW YORK—US forecasters were more optimistic about a US economic recovery than they were just three months ago, predicting a return to robust growth rates by mid-year, a survey of economists by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said on Friday.

The economy would likely expand at a 2.6-percent pace in the second quarter of this year, followed by a 3.9-percent growth in the third, the regional Fed bank said in its quarterly Survey of Professional Forecasters.

However, gross domestic product growth was expected to slow to an annualized rate of 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter, a downward revision from 4 percent projected in the last survey, issued in November.

GDP growth for all of 2002 was expected to rise to 1.4 percent, up from just 0.8 percent expected in the previous survey. But that still lagged behind forecasts of a 2.6-percent growth in 2002, made before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Philadelphia Fed report echoed a similar upbeat tone in the most recent Blue Chip survey, which found 42 percent of those polled thought the current recession, which began last March, had already ended.

Blue Chip survey participants foresaw the economy revving up to 2.9-percent growth by the second quarter.

Financial markets, anxiously awaiting congressional testimony from Fed chair Alan Greenspan next week on his outlook for the economy, did not react to the report.

The Philadelphia Fed's survey results, taken from a poll of 35 US economists, stood in sharp contrast to the bank's last survey, published about two months after the Sept. 11 attacks. That survey showed sharply reduced expectations for growth.

The report also followed upbeat news released late on Thursday from the National Association of Business Economics, which showed 60 percent of 37 economists surveyed believe the recession is already over.

Forecasters surveyed by the Philadelphia Fed did not materially change their views on employment, expecting unemployment to peak at 6 percent in the middle of the year.

The jobless rate, currently at 5.6 percent, is also expected to average 6 percent in 2002 but will probably fall to 5.7 percent in the first quarter of 2003.

Economists said inflation as measured by the consumer price index would average 2 percent, measured on a fourth quarter over fourth quarter basis. That was revised downward slightly from projections of 2.2 percent in the prior survey. They predicted inflation would pick up to 2.5 percent in 2003.

The government said this week the CPI rose by a mere 1.1 percent in January, year-over-year.

Economists surveyed by the Philadelphia Fed also scaled back their forecasts made three months ago on short-term market interest rate increases, but predicted long-term interest rates would rise.

The three-month treasury bill rate, currently at about 1.7 percent, would average 2 percent this year, they said, down from a prediction of 2.3 percent made last November.

Benchmark 10-year Treasury notes, currently yielding 4.84 percent, are expected to average 5.2 percent in 2002, up from projections of 4.6 percent made last quarter.

Reuters

Hedge funds turn to incubators to get going

NEW YORK—Hedge funds are called turbo-charged investment pools, but getting them on the road takes a jump-start.

New hedge funds are launching every day, and the difference between success and failure often hinges on getting seed money at a time when most investors won't touch these new ventures, no matter how famous the manager may be.

So-called hedge fund incubators are usually created by professional investors who, like venture capitalists, fund new managers in the early stages of the business. Many also have a hands-on approach and help the new companies with advice about a range of issues from marketing to managing trading strategies.

Even Jeffrey Vinik, who once ran the massive Fidelity Magellan mutual fund, turned to an incubator for help in setting up his hedge fund in the 1990s.

An estimated 1,000 hedge funds launched in 2001 alone, as many mutual fund managers have jumped ship to start their own funds. Now, the business of bringing these fledgling funds into adolescence or incubating them is also heating up with everyone from bankers to venture capitalists scrambling to find the next generation's stars.

Both sides—managers and investors—need each other, but industry experts also warn these types of partnerships, which are often long-term affairs, can be double-edged swords for managers who may give up too much of their business and incubators who may take huge risks in sorting good from bad.

"This is a very difficult industry and there are a lot of pitfalls in doing this. This is not about backing a sub-par manager but about helping set up an entrepreneurial company," said Sharissa Jones, partner at Capital Z Investments, which has committed $1.6 billion to 21 different funds.

In return for offering seed money and hands-on help with marketing and back-office operations, incubators get a lot in return, including the option to invest with the fund later. Once established, new managers tend to close their funds to new investors very quickly because they often like to keep their assets under management at smaller levels. Incubators also get a cut of the managers' incentive fees, which can be more than 20 percent of the performance.

Hedge funds are loosely regulated investment vehicles that differ from mutual funds by selling stocks short and using borrowed money to boost returns. They are also limited to a few hundred investors and many managers try to cap funds at $1 billion.

Hedge funds posted back-to-back positive returns in 2000 and 2001, when the stock market suffered heavy losses. But their success is not enough to wipe out their reputation as risky investment vehicles.

More conservative investors like pension funds are looking to make hedge fund investments, but they, like many other investors, prefer for someone else to test the waters until some sort of track record is established.

"There is a bit of a chicken-and-egg problem about how new managers achieve the size of assets under management to become interesting to certain investors," said Lee Gladden, president of Princeton International Management, a firm that provides marketing services to hedge funds.

Enter the incubators.

Among the most prominent of them are private investment groups such as the Blackstone Group, Capital Z Partners, Framework Investment Group and Hedge Fund Investment Co. LP.

Major US and European banks and insurers, including Wall Street firm Bear Stearns and Zurich Financial Services, are in the wings—either backing the incubators, like BRI Partners LLC, or new funds themselves to establish a foothold in the $550 billion hedge fund industry.

For example, the Blackstone Group was among the first investors when Jeffrey Vinik quit Fidelity to set up a hedge fund. Vinik's fund quickly returned over 50 percent annually before he shut down the fund and returned money to investors.

But to find one hedge fund like Vinik's, incubators have to look at a lot of managers who may never reach the mark. There is no record of the failure rate among hedge funds, but industry analysts say that it is relatively high.

Incubators sometimes say their main role is to supply the market with a steady stream of good managers and, to find them, the background checks can rival getting government security clearance. Some even say they use private investigators to ferret out that long-forgotten traffic court appearance.

In the end, says Adam Brass, partner at incubator BRI Partners, the work pays off. "It gives you (both the incubator and hedge fund manager) an edge with other investors." *Reuters*

Minister says without aid Argentina is 'traumatized'

BUENOS AIRES—Argentine Economy Minister Jorge Remes Lenicov warned again Friday of the likely "traumatic" effect the absence of foreign aid would have on his beleaguered country.

"If Argentine does not reengage in the world and cannot access foreign funds, its overcoming of this crisis is likely to be traumatic," Remes Lenikov said in remarks on Radio America.

Argentina's efforts to renegotiate its debt, despite suspending payment in December on the $141 billion owed to international creditors, would come only after an agreement is reached with the International Monetary Fund about a loan package, which itself hinges on a congressionally approved budget.

Lawmakers were on Thursday to review the budget proposal but postponed their session, awaiting the results of a financial tug-of-war between the federal government and provincial governors.

But US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, in remarks a day earlier, remained unbowed in the face of fresh entreaties by Buenos Aires, insisting Argentina must fix its own problems before the IMF steps in.

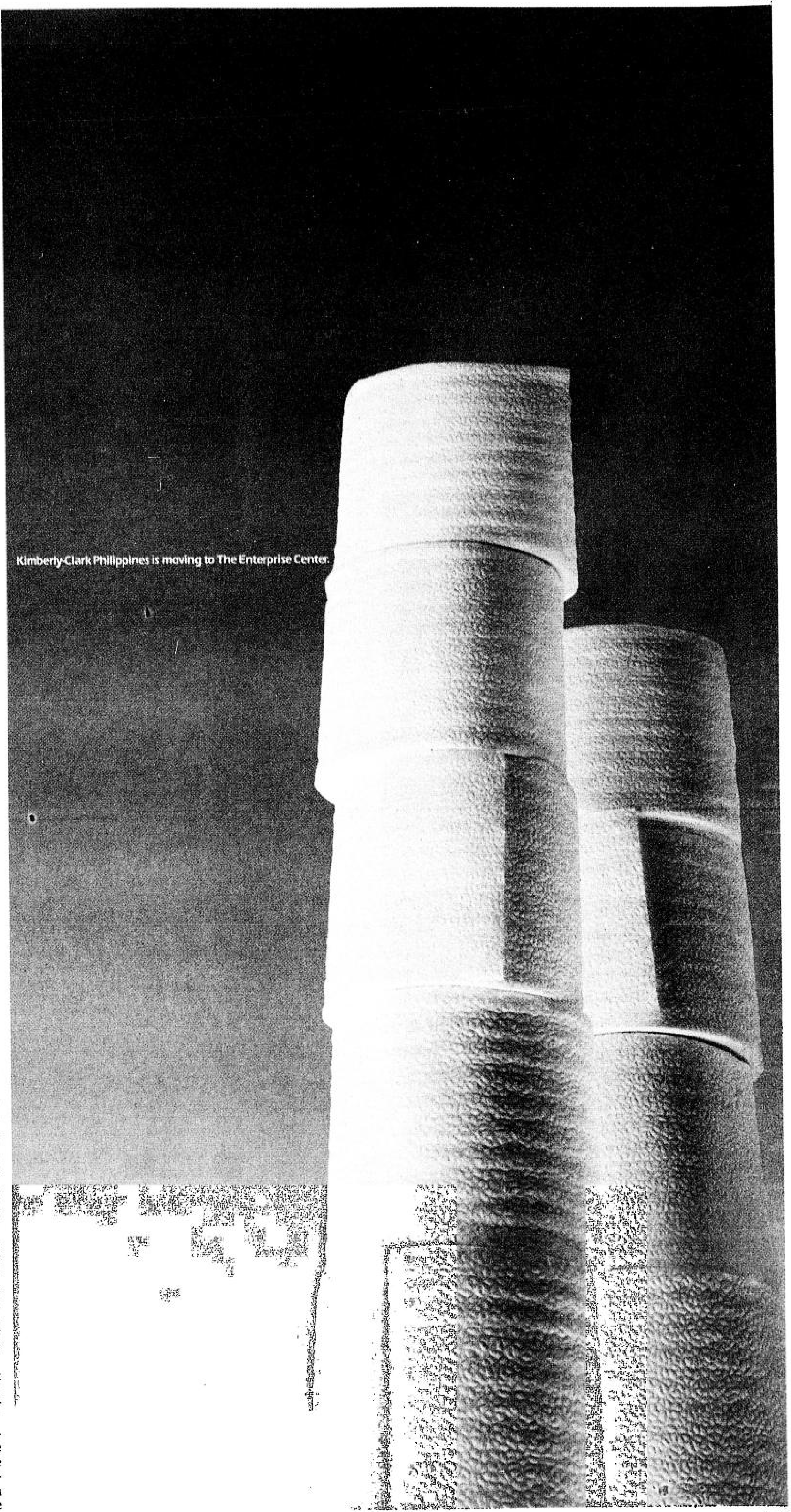
In remarks to the US Chamber of Commerce, O'Neill said Argentina must first resolve budgetary relations between the federal and provincial governments, and separately increase its tax collection.

Remes Lenicov sought to clarify a statement Wednesday by President Eduardo Duhalde, in which he expressed the goal of "nailing" the dollar to a rate of P1.60 to P1.70 through central bank intervention. The minister insisted the president's goal was only a "wish" indicating the "reasonable value" of the peso.

While Argentines take to the street almost daily in protest of the fiscal stagnation that has engulfed the country for nearly four years and the resulting freeze on their personal bank accounts, Remes Lenicov warned they should not expect free access to their savings anytime soon.

"We are not yet ready" to permit an easing on the restriction, he said, insisting on the need to move slowly in removing such restrictions.

Remes reiterated his contention that the current value of the dollar against the peso should be high, given the central bank's reserves, the money in circulation and the price levels, noting the best option for the Argentine economy is the free flotation of the peso. *AFP*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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that the following GLOBE call cards with serial numbers hereinunder specified has been stolen on February 13, 2002.

	From	To
Globe 300	123652381	123676380
	123678381	123680380
	123692381	123700380
	123702381	123706380
	123708381	123710380
Globe 500	141848701	141849700

Hence, we would like to advise the general public to please refrain from buying the specified GLOBE call cards above mentioned. Should there be any information regarding the stolen GLOBE call cards, please report to the Galas Police Station (Station 11), Quezon City at telephone number **7155585** or call the Chief Investigator David L. Allauigan at his cellular phone number **0917-2419351**.

Please be guided accordingly.

(PDI - Feb. 23, 24 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Naga
"An Maogmang Lugar"
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Naga City Government will receive tenders for the establishment, management and operation of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on a site owned by the city government in Bgy. Balatas, Naga City capable of processing at least 70 tons of mixed garbage daily into organic fertilizers and recyclable materials utilizing mechanical and manual processes and provide employment to at least 100 scavengers in the area.

Interested bidders must submit to the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), c/o Environment and Natural Resources Department, City Hall, J. Miranda Ave., Naga City, not later than 5:00 p.m., April 12, 2002 a bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of their bid proposal and five sets of photocopies of the following documents with each set segregated into three envelopes as follows:

A. Envelope #1: Proponent's profile:
   1. Company profile, list of key officials and organizational structure, duly audited financial statements for the years 1999-2001 or from date of creation until 2001 if established after 1999, articles of incorporation and SEC registration, DENR accreditation if any.
   2. Track record of the company in providing MRF or related waste management facilities, list of previous and on-going projects with certificates of completion issued by clients; pictures, description, cost and contact persons of these projects with their postal address and phone/fax number.

B. Envelope #2: Technical proposal
   1. Detailed description of the technology and processes to be used.
   2. Minimum standards of garbage to be processed, nature and quantity of compost, recyclables and residue to be generated.
   3. Specifications and number of equipment, facilities and buildings required, minimum area for MRF site.
   4. Organizational and management setup of the facility.
   5. Marketing and disposal scheme for end/by-products.
   6. Number of local residents to be directly employed, nature and number of other livelihood opportunities to be generated.
   7. Certificate of site inspection.
   8. Implementation schedule

C. Envelope #3: Financial proposal
   1. Detailed project financing scheme; amount, equipment or facilities to be borne by the city, if any.
   2. Detailed cost recovery scheme, period for the city to recover its investment, if any.

Bidders are required to visit the Balatas site prior to preparation of their proposal. Site visitation and pre-bid conference is scheduled on March 11, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Naga City. Envelope #1 will be opened on April 15, 2002, Envelope #2 on April 17, 2002 and Envelope #3 on April 19, 2002 all at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Naga City. For details, call Mr. Oscar Orozco, City Environment and Natural Resources Officer, at (054) 473-0775.

The PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, to annul or cancel the bidding, and to accept only such bid as it may consider most advantageous to the city government.

(Sgd.) JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor

(PDI - Feb. 23, 25 & Mar. 9, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

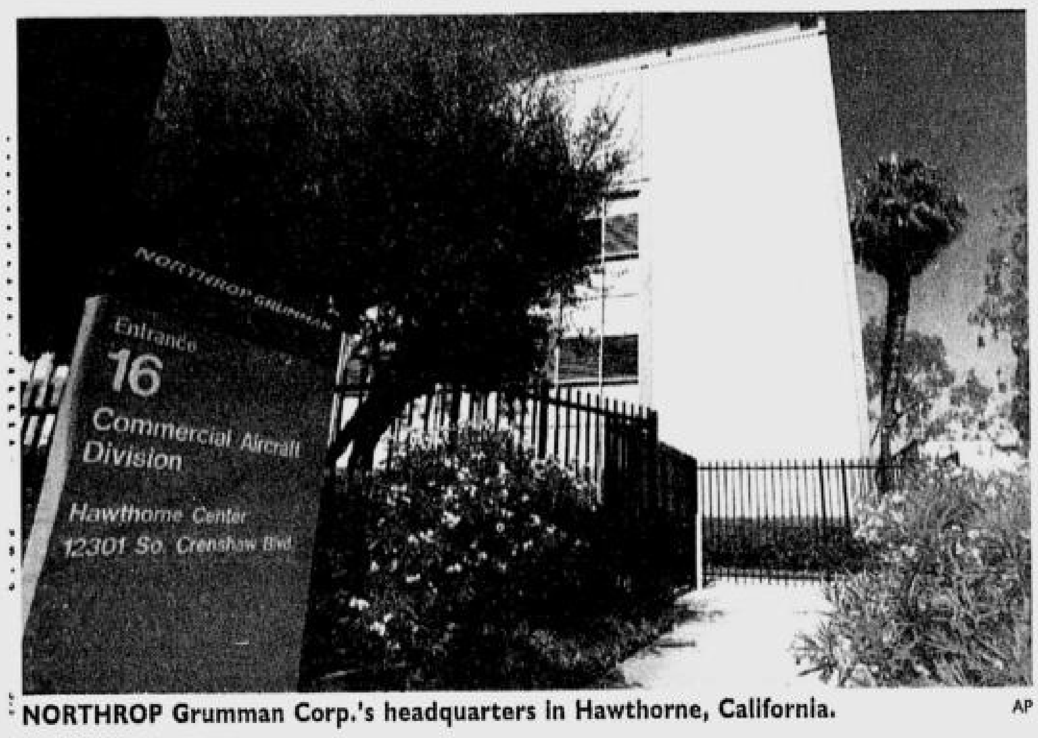
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day. It has never failed.

Thank you very much. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

Northrop Grumman in takeover bid for TRW



NORTHROP Grumman Corp.'s headquarters in Hawthorne, California. AP

NEW YORK—Northrop Grumman Corp. on Friday unveiled an unsolicited takeover bid of at least $6 billion for TRW Inc. that would create a powerhouse in satellite and missile-defense systems and challenge Boeing's ranking as the No. 2 US defense contractor.

If accepted, the merger would move Northrop further into space systems, notably the battle management and missile defense nerve centers that are due for tens of billions of dollars of Pentagon outlays in coming years.

Northrop said it was prepared to offer $47 in stock for each TRW share, and indicated it might be willing to raise the bid. TRW said its management would "address" the proposal, and advised shareholders not to take any immediate action.

Wall Street appeared to embrace the idea of a higher bid. Shares of TRW surged 26.4 percent, or $10.50 to $50.30, in New York Stock Exchange trade, more than 6 percent above Northrop's offer price.

"It's a terrific fit," said Cai von Rumohr, analyst at SG Cowen. "It rounds out their portfolio and clearly cements them as a real heavyweight player."

Northrop shares fell $7.85, or 6.7 percent, to $109.95.

Northrop said that after combining the companies, it would separate TRW's auto parts business, which it said was not a good fit with either TRW or Northrop. The business produces nearly two-thirds of TRW's revenues, and Northrop's CEO said he had already spoken with a potential buyer.

TRW would boost Northrop's annual sales to between $26 billion and $27 billion, excluding the auto parts business, Northrop said.

To date, Northrop has been only a marginal player in the Bush administration's drive to build a layered defense against ballistic missiles that could be tipped with nuclear, chemical, or biological warheads.

TRW, on the other hand, is developing the command, control, and communications systems for launching interceptors and stitching together the sensors that detect enemy missiles. Along with Lockheed Martin and Boeing Co., TRW is also developing an experimental, high-energy, space-based laser designed to destroy enemy rockets.

"It makes great sense, the timing is lousy," said Jon Kutler, president of Quarterdeck Investment Partners Inc.

Indeed, analysts and investors called Northrop's move aggressive on two fronts.

First, the offer came just two days after TRW chief executive David Cote, who masterminded a dramatic restructuring at the company, resigned to take the helm at Honeywell International. TRW shares fell about 10 percent following news of Cote's departure. *Reuters*

HK shopaholics check into rehab, tighten their belts

HONG KONG—Hong Kong people are no longer the most impulsive shoppers in the world as they tighten their belts to survive an economic downturn, a new survey has revealed.

The latest Cotton USA Global Monitor Survey on impulse shopping for clothes found that Hong Kong had slipped from pole position when the last poll of 10 major retail markets was conducted in 1999.

Then, 70 percent of consumers in the territory confessing to buying clothes on the spur of the moment. Now, the figure is down to 50 percent, behind Germany and Britain with 66 and 58 percent respectively.

"Impulse buying is a direct function of people being very secure about their economic futures," said Cotton USA's China and East Asia director Jeff Coey, quoted by the Hong Kong iMail on Saturday.

"The fact that fewer and fewer people are making impulsive clothing decisions is probably an indication that they recognize that there's uncertainty in the future, their economic future is less certain," he said.

The survey of 5,000 people was conducted in 10 markets, including the United States, Italy and Japan.

Only 40 percent of Hong Kong shoppers said they would buy more clothes this year than last, compared to 60 percent in the 1999 poll, while a third said they would buy no new clothes over the next 12 months. *AFP*

Kmart seeking Ernst & Young as financial adviser

TROY, Michigan—Bankrupt discount retailer Kmart Corp. said on Friday that it has asked the bankruptcy court for approval to retain accounting firm Ernst & Young Corporate Finance LLC as its financial advisor.

The services had previously been provided by PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP, which will continue to serve as Kmart's independent auditors and tax advisors, the company said in a statement.

The Troy, Michigan-based retailer, which filed for voluntary Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Jan. 22, said the motion, filed in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, is scheduled to be heard by a judge on March 6.

After court approval, Ernst & Young will provide Kmart with a variety of financial advisory services related to its pending reorganization cases, such as assistance in preparing financial disclosures required by the court and identifying areas of potential cost savings, Kmart said.

James Adamson, Kmart's chair, said the board "believes that in today's corporate environment it was prudent to make this change," adding that it does not reflect upon the quality of the services and advice PriceWaterhouseCoopers has provided. *Reuters*

3Com clinches Three Gorges deal

THE CHINESE government has given 3Com Corp. a contract to build a high-speed, high-performance network for its Three Gorges Project, the world's largest hydroelectric project today.

The Three Gorges Project is a 17-year, $24-billion effort to harness and develop the 6,380-kilometer Yangtze River, the longest river in China and the third longest in the world. First suggested in 1919 and in the drawing board for over 30 years, its core is the Three Gorges hydropower station.

Due to come on stream in 2003, the station will have a gross installed capacity of 18.2 million kilowatt-hours and an annual energy output of up to 84.7 billion kwh drawn from the Three Gorges dam and reservoir situation 5,000 kilometers from the Yangtze's source in the Tibetan plateau and 1,300 kilometers from its mouth in the East China Sea near Shanghai.

In addition to generating hydroelectric power, the project also aims to reduce flooding in the Yangtze's downstream areas from its current cycle of once every 10 years to less than once a century.

In a classic example of future proofing in action, the Three Gorges hydropower station had to design and deliver an always-available, high bandwidth, super-efficient network that would grow as departments and personnel were added each day and more applications and equipment deployed across a vast area.

The massive scale of the Three Gorges Project means individual departments are highly decentralized.

HP calls founder's heir 'a man who has no plan'

SAN FRANCISCO—Hewlett-Packard Co. on Friday launched its most scathing attack yet on dissident director Walter Hewlett and his opposition to the Compaq Computer Corp. merger, calling him a "man who has no plan" for the future of the company.

With less than a month until shareholders vote on the $21-billion merger and the outcome far from clear, HP board members said Hewlett's proposals announced this week amounted to a cobbled together, "now you see it, now you don't" strategy.

In the open letter to shareholders, HP said, "You may have read that Walter Hewlett has a 'plan' for HP. Or perhaps you read that he does not have a plan. Maybe you read both, depending upon which day of the week it was, or what Walter Hewlett thought was expedient to say at the time . . .

"So when Walter Hewlett tells you he has no plan and then says he really has one, and then vehemently denies he has a plan and then says he has a new plan—all in a matter of two weeks—only one thing is entirely clear: this is a man who has no plan for the future of your company or your investments in HP shares," the letter said.

Hewlett responded with a brief statement defending his calculations that HP would be worth $14 to $17 per share more without Compaq. *Reuters*

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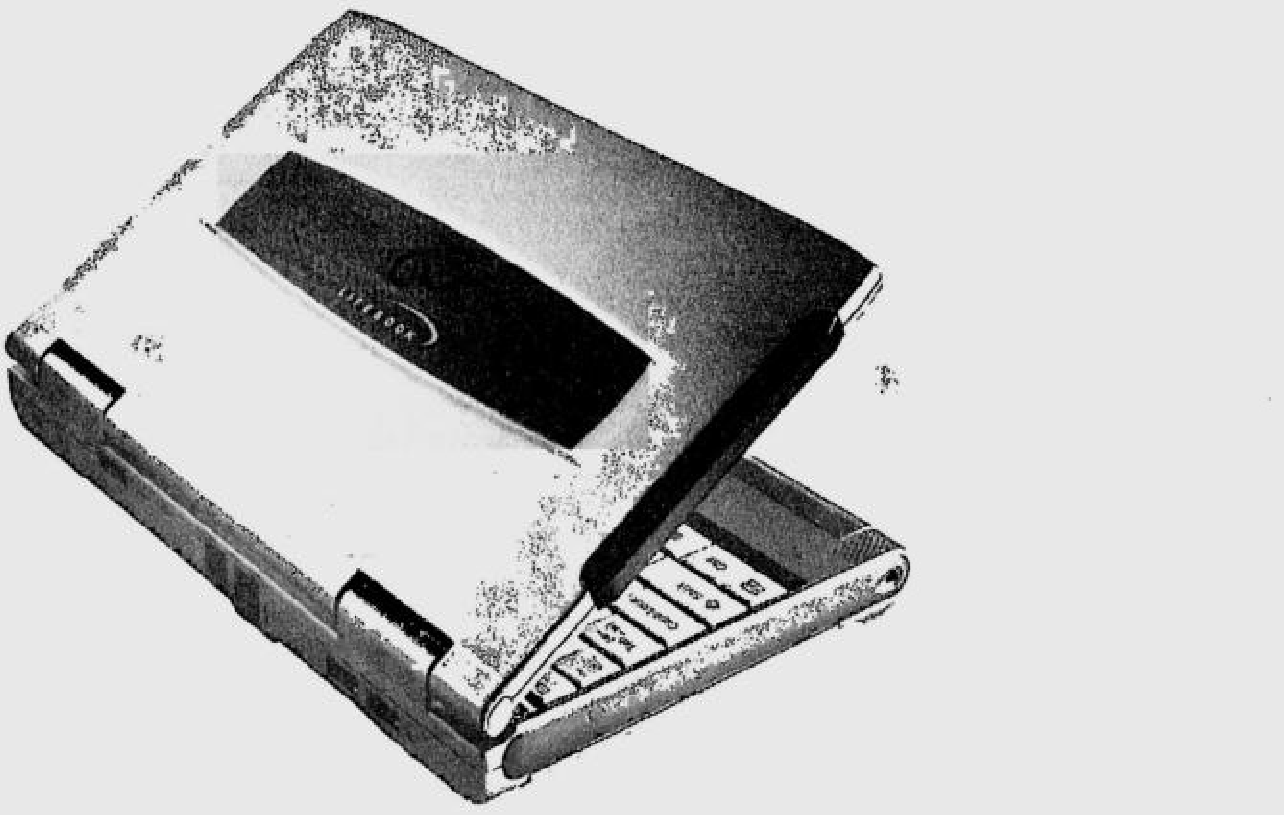

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Our Dear Mama,

PILAR DIAZ MARASIGAN

Has peacefully joined our Creator
on the 23rd day of February, 2002

Together with our loving Papa **FRED**; daughter **MARIROSE**; sisters **CHONG, IMELDA & RAY**; brothers **NONONG & MARICELLE, ROY & LINDA**; nephews and nieces; other relatives and friends request you to pray for her eternal journey with our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City where she shall await for her final goodbyes.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

"Whoever believes in Him shall not
perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

FRANCISCO ENCABO DUMLAO

of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya and UP Registrar's Office

June 27, 1947 - February 21, 2002

His deceased parents **Atty. & Mrs. Arcadio Dumlao Sr.**

Sisters and Brothers and their spouses: **Delfin** and **Milagros Fabian, Ricaredo** and **Teresita Oclaret, Saturnino** (†) and **Evangeline Dumlao, Narciso** and **Flory Dumlao, Arcadio Dumlao Jr., Mariano** and **Elvira Dumlao**; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal peace.

His body lies in state at the Christ of the Risen Lord Chapel, UP Diliman Campus.

Relatives and friends may call Tel. Nos. 375-4015 or 09197046619 for interment details.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

DOÑA SOCORRO VERGARA VDA. DE ALMAZAN

Peacefully joined her Creator on Sunday, February 24, 2002
at the age of 96.

Beloved mother to **LODING** and JUNIOR CRUZ; **TOTO** (†) & CONSUELO; **ETCHING** (†) & PURING; **ELY** & NIC (†) LONTOC; **ONCHIE** & HERNANDO CARIÑO; **PINING**; **DADA**.

Loving sister to **REMEDIOS** & **RAMON**.

A caring grandmother to
LITA, CONRAD, BOYET, MARIVIC, RENATO, BABETTE, DANDOY, GLORIA, TITO & **APPLE**;
TONY, CHEDENG, YOLY, JESSIE, LITA & **EDGAR**;
LINA (†), **CYNTHIA, DORY, MARITESS, CHOY, NOEL** & **BENG**;
CHITO, RAMON, GARY (†), **CHI-CHI** & **NORMAN**;
ERIC & **MALISSA** and all her great grandchildren.

We request those whose lives have been touched by **NANAY**, to pray for the repose of her soul as she is born into Eternal Life.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish Center, Magallanes Church, Makati City.

Interment will be on March 2, 2002, at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Magallanes Church.

Pilar Villaseñor Villaflor

of Dagupan City and Macalelon, Quezon,

Widow of the late **Dr. Vivencio V. Villaflor Sr.**

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on February 23, 2002 at the age of 98.

Her loving children **Vivencio Jr.** and **Gregoria Poblete, Lila** (†), **Alex** and **Miriam Sabeñano**; grandchildren **Vivencio Jose III** & **Bernadette Malvar, Ma. Pilarcita, Vicente Jose, Aurora Ysabel, Francisco Jose, Ciarra Kristan** & **Ennio Alexandre**; great grandchildren **Pauline** & **Anton**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the residence of Dr. Vivencio Villaflor Jr., Di-or Village, Dagupan City. Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, February 27, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the St. Therese Church. Interment will follow at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Dagupan City. Please omit flowers. Donation to the Dr. Vivencio V. Villaflor Sr. Medical Foundation will be appreciated.

BENITO CENERA TY

Died in the Grace of God on February 23, 2002
at the age of 73.

BENING is survived by his wife **Juanita**; children **Diana, Elizabeth, Teresita, Benito Jr., Rosemarie, Rosalinda** and **Richard**; sons-in-law; daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B of Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 27, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is Christ Jesus our Lord"
ROMANS 8:38-39

SANCHO CABILIZA ONGTAUCO

His loving children **Amado, Ely, Jerry, Sally, Lily, Julie**; and grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Funeral Parlor.

Interment will be on February 26, at 11:30 a.m. at Chinese Cemetery.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

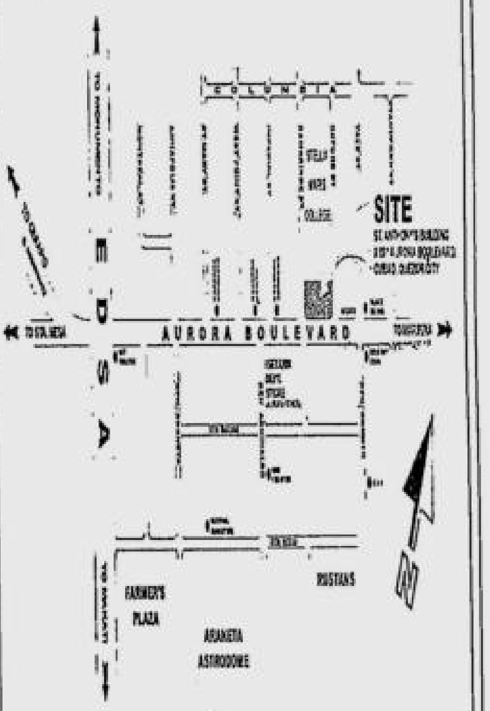
MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOQUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0288; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3198 to 99; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel,
27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438, 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4389; Fax No. (632) 636-2587
E-mail: adjusupbekova@adb.org or clsoriano@adb.org

INVITATION TO QUOTE

For Contract No. ADB/OAS-2002/005

1. The Asian Development Bank (hereinafter referred to as the ADB), a multilateral development institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines invites interested parties to quote in the provision of technical assistance in property appraisal services related to the purchase and renovation of properties (house, lot, townhouse, apartment, condominium) by ADB staff under the Support Staff Housing Loan Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Services").

2. The general Scope of Work entails the provision of technical assistance in property appraisal, particularly (a) checking and confirmation of TCT/CCT validity as well as the liens and encumbrances from the corresponding office of the Register of Deeds; (b) conduct of initial inspection and appraisal of property/collateral and the immediate environs; (c) analysis and validation of submitted building plans, specifications, bill of materials and cost estimates covering proposed construction/renovation; (d) conduct of subsequent inspections and re-appraisals of progress and construction; (e) conduct special property verification for housing loan applicants through ownership verification of staff and spouse properties; and (e) submission of property verification, appraisal and evaluation reports, including a certified true copy of the TCT/CCT, in a format acceptable to ADB within 10 working days from receipt of the official request for property verification and appraisal from ADB. Detailed calculation on how the appraised value of the property was determined would also be required to be submitted.

3. The invitation to quote is open to all firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures, but only those firms meeting ADB's requirements will be successful.

4. Solicitation documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223N at the following address: Asian Development Bank, NO. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines from 27-28 February 2002 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

5. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation to quote shall be borne solely by the applicant. the ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to postpone the issuance of the solicitation documents. Only post qualified companies/offerors considered by ADB will be contacted.

(Sgd.) **NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN**
DIRECTOR, GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(PDI--Feb. 25 & 26, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipality

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

Dalican, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payment under contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of DATU ODIN SINSUAT as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invite prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the: CONCRETING OF BAGOINGED FARM TO MARKET ROAD.
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P3,500.00) per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **March 28, 2002** at DAT Odin Sinsuat Municipal Hall addressed to: The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee, Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat.
5. A Pre-bid conference shall be held on **March 21, 2002** at Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipal Hall, Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC).
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **March 28, 2002** at Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipal Hall. Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall accompanied by GSIS bid security of 21/2% of the approved budget or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget for this project is Five Million Six Hundred Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight and Ninety Two Centavos (P 5,612,488.92).
8. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **DATU OMBRA Q. SINSUAT**
Municipal Mayor
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI--Feb. 21 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Bldg. No. 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132; Fax (632) 743-1829, 743-1786; Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
e-mail address: osec@doh.gov.ph

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Philippines
Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs (IFB No. WB-ECD-02-DOH-001)
and
Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets (IFB No. WB-ECD-02-DOH-002)

1. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following drugs:

Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs (IFB No. WB-ECD-02-DOH-001)

Items	Quantity	Quantity
1. Ferrous Sulfate Drops	341,300	bottles
2. Ferrous Sulfate Syrup	211,800	bottles
3. Vitamin A 100,000 IU	200,000	capsules
4. Vitamin A 200,000 IU	1,455,600	capsules
Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets (IFB No. WB-ECD-02-DOH-002)		
1. Ferrous Sulfate Tablets	56,957,900	tablets

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 26 February to 18 March 2002, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Procurement and Logistics Service
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
Te. No. (632) 711-6831
Telefax No. (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) or US$250 for each Bidding Documents including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 1:00 p.m. on 19 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs and on or before 3:00 p.m. on 19 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid price in the currency of the bid or another freely convertible currency. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 1:01 p.m. on 19 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs and 3:01 p.m. for the Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 1:00 p.m. on 7 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs and 3:00 p.m. on 7 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets.

Multi-Media Conference Room
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines

8. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
9. The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 23, 24 & 25, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

REGION IV
Balagtas, Batangas City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority Region IV invites all interested manufacturers of polypropylen plastic sacks to participate in bidding to supply approximately 300,000 pieces of rice milling MTS with the following specifications:

SPECIFICATIONS	RICE
MTS Code	PPM G50
Material	Polypropylene
Color	White
Type	Woven Polypropylene
Thread Count	
Warp	10.00
Filling	10.00
Size	
Length	970 mm
Width	530 mm
Min. Weight	75 g
Min. Bursting Strength	1,510 kPA
Breaking Strength	
Warp	344.00 N
Filling	295.00 N
Seaming	
Turned Edges	25.00 mm
Stitching	
Depth from bottom edge	10.00 mm
No. of Stitches/decimeter	12.00
Open Top End	Heat Cut
Design/Logo	NFA Prescribed design front and back prints 2 colors
Roughness/Cohesiveness	Warp/Filling should be provided with twisted yarns

Bid forms can be secured from the RPBAC Secretariat from **February 25-28, 2002** after paying a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per participant.

Interested parties should submit the following requirements:

Envelope A:

1. Location and vicinity plan of manufacturer's plant
2. For corporations - SEC Registration and Articles of Incorporation
3. DTI Registration for Sole Proprietorship
4. Company Profile
5. Audited Financial Statement for the past two (2) years (1999-2000)
6. Income Tax Return for the past two (2) years with BIR Official Receipt of payment (1999-2000)
7. Original, duly notarized Board Resolution (Corporation)/Special Power of Attorney naming the person authorized to transact business and sign documents in behalf of the company relative to the bidding for the supply and delivery of empty sacks to NFA
8. One passport size photo with these specimen signatures of the duly authorized representative

Envelope B:

1. Duly accomplished/signed Bid Form with the following information:
   - a. Price per piece inclusive of all taxes
   - b. Plant Capacity per 24 hours operation to be dedicated to NFA
   - c. Delivery Period
   - d. Validity period of Bid
2. Bidders Bond either in cash, Manager's Check from a reputable Bank or GSIS bond equivalent to 10% of the bid amount

One stage bidding shall be applied. Envelopes A and B shall be submitted to the RBAC not later than 2:00 PM, **February 20, 2002**. Envelope B will only be opened if all the required supporting documents are in Envelope A.

Venue of Bidding is NFA Region IV in Balagtas, Batangas City. Specific schedules as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Forms	February 25-28, 2002	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	March 1, 2002	10:00 AM
3. Bidding Proper	March 1, 2002	2:00 PM

The RPBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA. The decision of the committee as confirmed by the Regional Director shall be deemed final.

For further inquiries, please contact the RPBAC Chairman Mr. Jose B. Guevara, at telephone nos. (043) 723-3325, 723-2186 or 402-0189.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
Asst. Regional Director
RPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 24, 25 & 26, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) would like to invite all prospective bidders to apply for prequalification for the design, supply and installation of a 5,000 sq m. PVC Engineered Fabric Membrane Structure (EFMS) at the yellow parking of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) to serve as its interim Exhibition Hall. Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, services and other incidentals required to perform: (a) design, supply and installation of EFMS Structure and necessary civil, electrical, mechanical, sanitary and electric power requirements, (b) landscape development; (c) installation of ancillary facilities; and (d) all other items necessary to complete the work.

Requirements/Criteria to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Should be a single entity which may be a partnership, corporation, joint venture or any other legal entity with a capital of which at least 60% is Filipino owned. The entity should be able to facilitate and provide the necessary architectural & engineering design, supply & contracting services for an Engineered Fabric Membrane Structure (EFMS) and its ancillary facilities to serve as the PICC Interim Exhibition Hall.

2.0 The bidder should have a total working capital of at least Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) as of December 2001, computed as follows: *(Current Assets less Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contracts yet to be started)* & a total net worth of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00).

3.0 With a complement of duly licensed & qualified Engineers and Architects with sufficient experience and training to manage, design and certify the required technical drawings and specifications to complete the proposed project.

4.0 Should have a working arrangement with a reputable Engineered Fabric Membrane Structure (EFMS) company with the following background:
- a. *International professional experience for the past five (5) years specializing in the design, assembly, installation and/or manufacture of fabric structures for commercial / institutional organizations intended for exhibition, consumer & trade fairs, banquet & special events purposes.*
- b. *Should have supplied and installed at least five (5) similar EFM structures, one of which has a total floor area of at least 5,000 square meters.*
- c. *Should be able to provide a product warranty of at least 15 years for the structural design and 5 years for the fabric against any defects. In case of a joint venture or a partnership, all warranties shall be answered for by the local partner of the bidder.*

5.0 Should have a working arrangement with a General Contractor with a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License with an Inter Agency Classification (IAC) of Large B (for Building and Industrial Plants) for the past three (3) consecutive years with the following background:
- a. *Has completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) commercial or institutional construction projects of similar (nature, type or) complexity. [of Architectural and Engineering (A&E) works] one of which costs at least Fifty Million (P50,000,000.00) Pesos.*
- b. *Willing to assume all product and work liabilities during and after construction of the EFMS and its mixed civil works requirements.*

6.0 Must submit the following documents:
- a. *Letter of Intent to Bid for the Project*
- b. *Applicable Joint Venture or Partnership agreement establishing the proponents included for the supply and installation requirements of the project*
- c. *Brochures with photos illustrating among others actual installed fabric structures, framing and auxiliary facilities. Include actual photos of local projects, if any.*
- d. *Certificates of satisfactory performance (for at least 2 biggest of the previous fabric structure project installations cited) signed by the client's authorized signatories. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. Facsimile or e-mail certification will be accepted. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certifications and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsifies data on these documents or issues fake certifications.*
- e. *Sample/s of fabric structure material to be proposed*
- f. *Applicable licenses and certificates such as SEC / DTI Registration, Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit.*
- g. *Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years of the proponents.*
- h. *Affidavit declaring that the bidder or any of its subcontractors/ consultants has not committed any civil, criminal or local government violations in the practice of their business.*
- i. *Authority to distribute or supply and install the EFMS component of the project*
- j. *Authenticated copy of Contractor's License &*
- k. *Contractor's Information Sheet (BSP Form)*

Documents may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204", 2nd floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance is until March 11, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00NN. Cost of form is Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200/set). Deadline of submission of prequalification documents is on March 12, 2002.

Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification shall be issued on March 28, 2002 / 9:30am to 12:00 nn at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of Bid/Tender Documents to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P 2,000.00/set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 262 Series of 2000 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

February 24 and 25, 2002

(Sgd.) VICENTE B. VALDEPEÑAS, JR.
Chairman

(Sgd.) JUAN QUINTOS, JR.
Co-Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 24 & 25, 2002)

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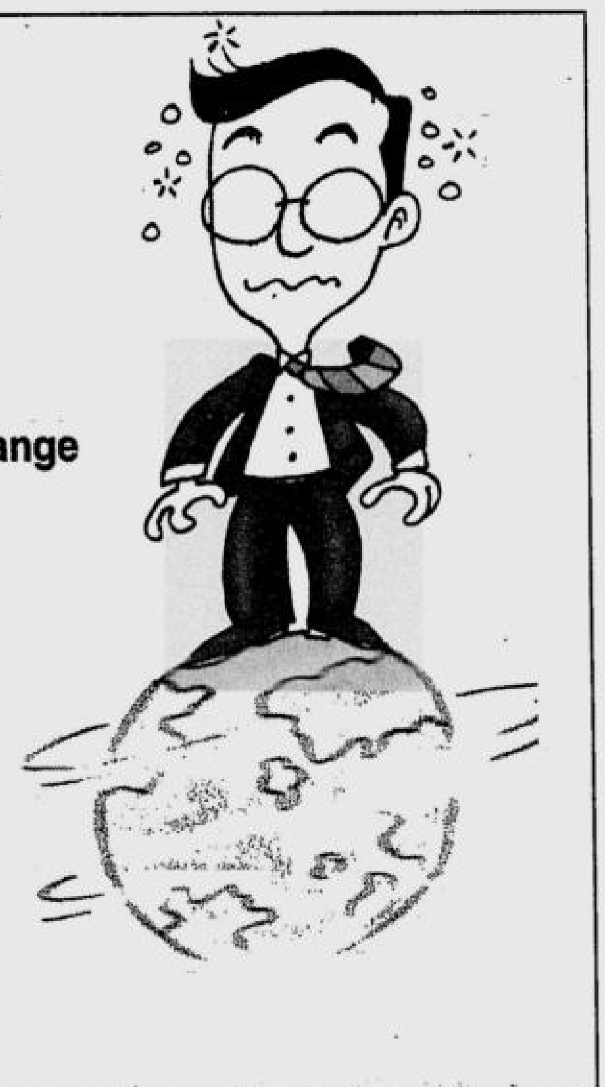
Survive changes at work and in the world



Attend the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER People *at* Work *Live!* Seminar Series on Change Management

March 18, 2002 (Monday)
MANAGING WORK-RELATED STRESS
Tita Datu Puangco, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., will discuss the sources of stress in the workplace and how living the present moment will help you achieve more with less strain. She will share the key to enjoying work which is living "the rainbow life" to ensure an integrated and balanced life.

March 19, 2002 (Tuesday)
SURVIVING WORKPLACE CHANGE
Lirio O. Mapa, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., will talk about how you can prepare yourself for changes. She will also tackle the paradigms and principles that can help you survive workplace changes.

March 20, 2002 (Wednesday)
LEADING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE
Mark Mackenzie, Managing Principal, S & G International Consulting, Inc., will focus on how you can lead change, not just from the senior management perspective, but from those in all levels of the organization. He will discuss how different types of change are identified, measured and managed by all employees.

TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

REGISTRATION FEES PER SESSION: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron), Early bird discount of 10%, Limited discounted tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

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INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of Waste Oil
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : March 11, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
WASTE OIL (Lube) Power Barge 120, Balanacan, Mogpog, Marinduque Torrijos DPP, Brgy. Cagpo, Torijos, Marinduque Boac DPP, Bgy. Bantad, Boac, Marinduque	P0.45 / Liter

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 2:00 PM at NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P. F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 25, 26 & 27, 2001)

MATIBAY ANG PILIPINO
Insular Life's Advertising Campaign

Who is the Filipino? Malay race. Brown skin. Medium height. Black hair. Then again, to borrow that critical question from a past Ms. Universe pageant, what is the essence of a true Filipino?

If we probe deeper and sift through the Filipino character, we would find that the Filipinos are a group of people who share a past characterized by many struggles as well as triumphs. History has dealt us with centuries of colonization, an authoritarian regime, the birth of hope with the EDSA People Power, followed by brief periods of economic progress, the impeachment of a president, and the rise of the second EDSA People Power that overthrew an administration, only to be plunged into a world-wide financial crisis which, to this day, still hounds us.

Our past struggles, as well as the challenges we now face have given us profound lessons. Always, we have been witness to the Filipinos' faith in God, love for family, resilience in the face of adversity, optimism, compassion, and enormous capacity for hard work and sacrifices.

These are the reasons why the Filipino has always triumphed over adverse conditions. Somehow, he will rise above the obstacle and emerge triumphant. That is the Filipino spirit... it can bend but it will never break. That is why we can indeed say, "**Matibay ang Pilipino.**"

How to make this realization foremost in the public's consciousness so as to bring back the pride in being a Filipino was a challenge that Insular Life undertook. During its 91st founding anniversary in November 2001, Insular Life launched the "**Matibay ang Pilipino**" print advertising campaign, a campaign aimed at highlighting the many positive traits of the Filipino.

"**Matibay ang Pilipino**" focuses on the strength and resilience of the Filipinos. It conveys a sense of optimism, a realization that life, in spite of all the hardships and obstacles, is still good, and the future, promising.

The print campaign is composed of a series of three advertising lay-outs. One layout highlights our tremendous faith in God. In the "Church" scene, the basic message is "Anumang pagsubok, anumang paghihirap, lahat ay malalampasan kung may pananalig sa ating Maykapal."

Another lay-out highlights our society's basic institution, the family, and portrays the Filipino's dedication and immeasurable capacity for hard work and sacrifice in order to provide for his loved ones. A father comes home to a warm embrace from his daughter after a hard day's work and tells himself ... " Puhunan man ay pawis, puhunan man ay dugo, sulit lahat sa matamis na ngiti ng aking bunso."

A third lay-out, "Teenagers by the window", focuses on the Filipinos' spirit of "bayanihan" and "pagdadamayan" ... "Kahit may lungkot at may tamlay, kahit may pagsubok sa buhay, may ginhawang naghihintay basta't ikaw ay may kadamay."

As the nation marks the 16th anniversary of the first EDSA People Power we are again reminded of the time when Filipinos banded as one in order to assert their rights against a dictatorship. During this celebration, Insular Life's message is that the Filipinos, alongside the tremendous strength they carry, are forward-looking people who have learned to take in stride the things that come their way. Like our people, Insular Life is undaunted by challenges and ready to ride through all the storms in Philippine society side by side with the Filipino people.

Property sector seen finally out of slump

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PROPERTY sector is seen to have finally turned the corner as a growing number of developers unveil new development projects this year after almost five years of drought in the construction industry.

Victor H. Manarang, a former executive of Ayala Land and Anscor Land, said the slump in the real estate appeared to have bottomed out last year as the rate of decline had slowed down drastically last year compared with previous years' levels since the property bubble burst in 1997.

Manarang said this had emboldened property developers such as Ayala Land and Robinson's Land Corp. to start marketing new projects. He said property developers have been mostly unloading their old inventories or existing projects caught in the 1997 crisis.

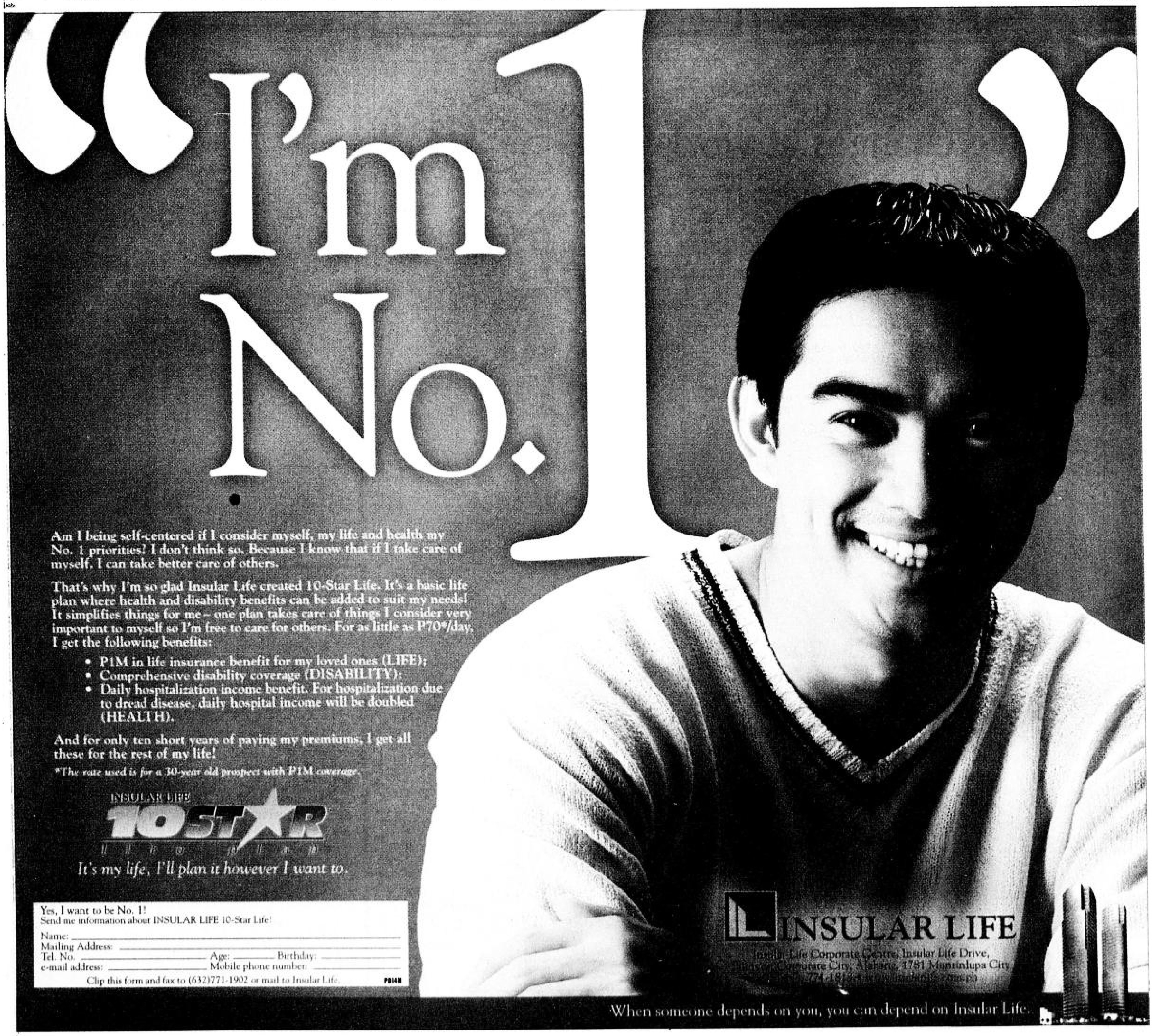
"The market has been starved by the lack of new projects and we believe buyers are now ready to look for new developments," Manarang said. "We have always maintained that a good number of people still have the money to buy new houses and it is just a matter of confidence on when to spend their money."

Aside from the new projects, Manarang said land prices have stopped going down since last year despite the stream of negative events such as the Edsa 3 uprising and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Construction activities rising

Manarang is currently the president of One Asia, a joint venture between DM Consunji Inc. and Northeast Development Acquisition Corp., which is spending P1.2 billion to build a high-end townhouse project in Quezon City.

Manarang said the project has been on the drawing board since 1996 and it was only now that the proponents found it timely to proceed with the development. Manarang said demand has so far been brisk as buyers were shelling out P6 million to P10 million per unit. Asia One is likewise spending P500 million to put up a new residential project in Parañaque.



Am I being self-centered if I consider myself, my life and health my No. 1 priorities? I don't think so. Because I know that if I take care of myself, I can take better care of others.

That's why I'm so glad Insular Life created 10-Star Life. It's a basic life plan where health and disability benefits can be added to suit my needs! It simplifies things for me – one plan takes care of things I consider very important to myself so I'm free to care for others. For as little as P70*/day, I get the following benefits:

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- Comprehensive disability coverage (DISABILITY);
- Daily hospitalization income benefit. For hospitalization due to dread disease, daily hospital income will be doubled (HEALTH).

And for only ten short years of paying my premiums, I get all these for the rest of my life!

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Retirement suits John Gokongwei

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao, Margie Quimpo-Espino and Abigail L. Ho

JOHN Gokonwei Jr. may be one of the country's richest men but he says he can no longer enter into contracts for his conglomerate, JG Summit Holdings Inc.

He can still sign checks but only if the JG Summit's other signatories like his son Lance and youngest brother James are not around.

This is the new life that "Mr. John" has been living since he stepped down as chair of the Gokongwei group of companies, with 22 business units, on his 75th birthday in August last year.

In a recent chat with SundayBiz in his home, the taipan shared some very candid remarks about life as a recently retired billionaire.

"I did not feel any different the day after I retired because I have been preparing for it since I was 69 years old. I felt that I had to transfer power while I am still around so that I could still help fix any problems that may arise," Gokongwei said.

With the reins of power firmly in the hands of his brother and son, he immediately indulged in his love for traveling. He is set to leave for the Tuscany region in Italy with eight companions and is looking forward to visiting Eastern Europe, Russia and even Mongolia.

THE TAIPAN taking a nap with first granchild Justin.

PHOTOS FROM "I DID IT MY WEI."

His passion for travel comes from his love of history. Even his bathroom is filled with books about history. He takes time, he says, to visit all the museums and absorb as much as he can about a place when he gets the chance to travel.

He reveals that he would have been an archaeologist if he was not forced to become a businessman at the tender age of 14, when his father suddenly passed away, leaving him to take care of his mother and six siblings.

He rues that it is too late now to become an archaeologist, saying that he cannot imagine a 76-year-old standing under the sun digging for fossils.

But he is definitely not too old to take a direct hand in helping raise his two grown grandchildren.

While he was not able to teach his six children to speak Chinese, he says he will make sure that 3-year-old Therese and 5-year-old Justin will learn to speak Mandarin because they will need this language in 20 years.

Another grandchild, Julia, is only 3 months old.

Gokongwei himself does not speak Mandarin, he speaks Fookien although his wife Elizabeth can. Daughter Robina Pe speaks fluent Fookien, another daughter Lisa, says she can understand, and only son Lance can converse. The rest speak English and Filipino.

"My children don't speak Chinese, except for Robina and Lance. Maybe because I didn't spend that much time with them," he recalls.

On top of Chinese, he says he would like his grandchildren to learn French as it is the diplomats language and the second most used Western language after English.

"English and Filipino will come naturally. The Mandarin and French they will have to learn," he says.

He says he is still waiting for a Gokongwei although he says he tries not to pressure his only son Lance. His son has been married for only 14 months to wife Jay.

He admits one cause of the lack of a Gokongwei is he works Lance too hard.

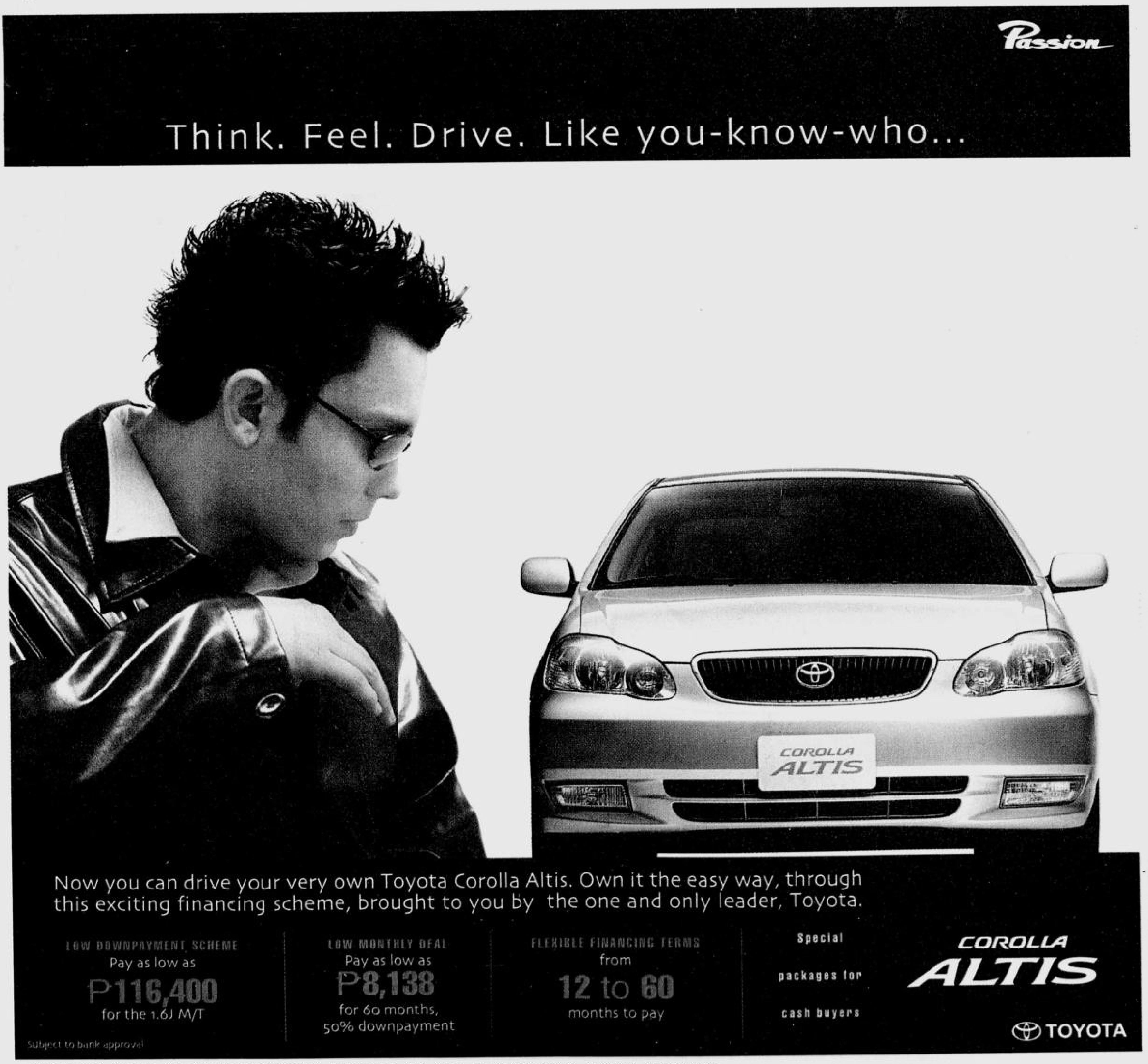
GOKONGWEI on his 75th birthday

Gokongwei dearly wants more grandchildren, as family has always been important to him. Even if he spent hours away from home when he was building the business, he made it a point to spend Sundays with son Lance and daughters Robina, Lisa, Marcia, Faith and Hope.

"I don't remember not eating dinner with my family. I would sometimes go to cocktails for busi-

RETIREMENT/ C2

A YOUNG John with wife Elizabeth, circa 1950s.



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Promo period: Feb. 1- 28, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0209, Series of 2002

Organizational morale

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Augusto L. De leon

MORALE in an organization is a state of the mind among the critical mass of the people in the work force. When people in an organization is in a high state of morale, they are motivated, happy, optimistic and capable of achieving goals. Thus it is one of the most important functions of a Chief Executive Office (CEO) to insure that the morale of an organization is maintained at a high level. Otherwise, the organization functions inefficiently, fails to meet goals and is prone to counterproductive activities which can even lead to a serious strike.

Government leaders can learn from business organization to move our country forward. The business mood index was at its lowest in a survey made in the last month of the year. Out of a 100 score, 50 of those surveyed felt the current business conditions are bad, 30.3 said it is neither good nor bad while only 19.7 said it was good.

Government leaders seem to counter the prevailing mood by releasing a barrage of "glowing" performance statistics and good news press releases. Unfortunately, public relations and measured termed as hygiene measures in business organizations are ineffective when the fundamentals of what people experience is contrary to the public pronouncements of the leaders.

When, for example, officials say that the law enforcement agencies have reforms but day in and day out the thousands of drivers have to pay off law enforcers. The public pronouncement only results in negative reaction.

When there are news reports that the garbage problems have been solved but everyone sees the pile of uncollected garbage in the streets, can we expect people to believe the news report?

Government also has to worry about perception of people just like CEO's worry about the perception of the stakeholder. Clarification helps to resolve these problems if the clarifications are credible because it has a sound basis.

However, when people perceive that the people who are expected to resolve the problems seem to benefit from the problem, even the uneducated public will conclude that the problem will not be solved.

How would the traffic problem be solved when there are people who earn every day when there is chaos on the road? Why would the law enforcers solve the kidnapping and drug problem when they are perceived to make big money in the ransom and protection of those engaged in illegal activities?

In other words, a convergence has taken place between the self-interest of those who are solving the problems with the perpetuation of the problems.

How can our government leaders make the people believe that they can expect a better future when our policy is to continue increasing our debts (now at P2.32 trillion)? By now it has become clear to many more among the ordinary people that large borrowings results in their having to pay more for what they buy to survive day by day.

More and more people claim their lives are worse off today than in the previous years. More people are feeling insecure with the stability of their income. Under these circumstance how can people be optimistic about the future and not feel demoralized?

Very clearly, we have adopted a policy of leverage financing as an economic strategy. The fundamental idea is sound if and only if the borrowed money is used to create new wealth that is equitably distributed among the population. But then are we not using borrowed money for consumption i.e. to keep the economy afloat?

While budgetary allocations are made for capital expenditure, what is seen is that government spends more for what the people get or government spends for what is of no value to the people and the economy. In other words, we end up with the people having to pay off the debts without getting anything out of it. Our policy has merely resulted in the devaluation of the currency and inflation.

The perception is that public funds greatly augmented with domestic and foreign borrowing are spent for projects that benefit a class of people, i.e. those in power and the wealthy. When public expenditures are made, the economically and politically powerful get the lion's share of the expenditure and that the ordinary people, without getting anything from the so-called "public" expenditure, pays the bill.

It is indeed unfortunate the borrowings and expenditure are justified by their intended benefit of the poor but the beneficial outcome of the expenditure appears to be captured by the rich and powerful. Proof is that the gap between the rich and the poor has been increasing over the years that we have been borrowing and overspending in government.

The posture of government leaders is that those who complain about corruption in government should come out with evidence. Can we not use as evidence the results or outcome of the expenditure? When we see that a newly built cement road has to be redone after one year? (Take C-5 as an example.) When we see that less than a year after a road is cemented, another crew of workers is drilling to place new pipes (N. Domingo), when people see the Centennial white elephant in Pampanga, when the victims of Pinatubo remain homeless after spending so many billions?

The wastefulness can be witnessed by our own eyes on a daily basis, making credibility of government a question. At best, we slide toward cynicism. It could be worse. But it does not improve morale.

News about the events and riots in Argentina aggravate fear and uncertainty among the people, further eroding morale. Maybe we can learn for the Argentinean experience and avoid falling into the same trap.

Like the Philippines, Argentina adopted the policy of leverage financing their economy, maximizing its domestic and foreign borrowing. Like the Philippines the borrowed money was not spent to create wealth for the economy. It leaked out to the politicians and economically powerful.

At first, the ordinary people were made to pay for the debts resulting in hyperinflation. This led to social turmoil. Their leaders figured that the riots in the street could be controlled if the inflation could be tamed. That was done by not making the people pay for the debts immediately.

The payment via indirect taxation was deferred to the future. By pegging the exchange rate of the local currency with the US dollar, the inflation problem was resolved. But it also resulted in more borrowings to pay off obligations falling due, thus ballooning the borrowings to a point that when pay-off time came, no one would lend more money to pay off their debts.

Now the borrower must pay for the obligation, and the borrower who has to pay are the ordinary people—hence the fall of the government and the riots in the streets.

Our economic mangers claim that we have a superior economic policy. Instead of accumulating the indirect taxation, we spread the indirect tax over the years, from P2 to a US dollar, to P4, P8, P14, P22, P28 and now P52.

The annual inflation and series of Philippine peso devaluation were like making the people pay for the debt on installment and this proved to be more effective than the "one give" the Argentineans are doing now. The middle class and poor sector of the society are now simply refusing to pay for debt that was mostly siphoned off by the politicians and the economically powerful.

Our economic experts may also claim that the foreign debt of Argentina is $132 billion while the Philippines has only $52.4 billion in debt. That there are only 36.5 million Argentineans who have to pay off the debt while there are 74.5 million Filipinos to pay ours.

But we overlook that the per capita income of the Filipinos is less than $1,000 while the per capita income of the Argentinean is $7,600 or 7 times more income to pay off debts. Likewise, the total export of Argentina is only 23.3 billion, while the Philippine exports are 34.2 billion—every Argentinean produces the equivalent of $638,000 of export, while every Filipino produces only $459,000.

Argentina has a land resource of 2,766,890 sq. km. while the Philippines has only 300,000 sq. km. In reality, Argentina is richer and more able to pay for its debts than the Philippines, but its people simply now refuse to pay even when they might have gotten more out of their borrowings than the ordinary Filipino.

In conclusion, the key to improving the morale and mood of the Filipino people will simply have to be radical change in the fundamentals. There have to be major changes implemented to better insure that public funds, especially borrowed funds, both domestic and foreign, are applied to benefit the low-income people, who, after all, pays for these borrowings in terms of inflationary taxes.

The change cannot be measured in terms of the statistics now being released by government agencies, nor by speeches and pronouncements. We have to look at the bottom line. These are: (a) the reduction in the number of people who live below the poverty line and (b) the reduction of the gap between the rich and the poor in our society.

In the corporate environment, this is the equivalent of the sales line and the profit line in the financial report.

A government and a bureaucracy that can deliver on these measures of performance will improve the morale of the people. We will regain our sense of dignity as a nation among the people of South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and China. Like these countries, we can expect investments to flow and support our growing population.

In the parlance of business, if we benchmark ourselves today with many of our Asian neighbors, we will have to admit that they had better management. *(This article reflects the personal view of the author who is a member and past governor of Management Association of the Philippines and chair of De Leon Consulting. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)*

Public is more satisfied with gov't performance

By Dennis M. Arroyo

HERE'S a tip, corporate planners. You may notice that the economic news have been good lately. You may want to include this finding in your board meetings—the public is now more satisfied with government performance. That's a welcome development for consumer confidence.

Rising tide

The rising tide is seen from the latest available survey of Social Weather Stations. Run in Nov. 3-21, 2001, the poll included the standard questions for rating government performance.

SWS asked if the respondent was satisfied or dissatisfied with the general performance of the national administration. The resulting net satisfaction rating (percent satisfied minus percent dissatisfied) was +27 percentage points. This was a big improvement from the +8 seen in September 2001.

Improvement for 13 out of 16 issues

The November 2001 survey covered 18 specific performance areas, including two new issues. Out of the 16 usual items, the public showed greater satisfaction in 13 of them.

Three issues were negative in September 2001, but they turned positive in November 2001. These items were:

- Reconciliation with Muslim rebels (from –13 percentage points to +9),
- Ensuring that medicines are affordable (from –16 to +5) and
- Promoting foreign investments (from –2 to +6).

In four issues, satisfaction rose in November from the earlier readings in September. These areas were:

- Promoting the welfare of OFWs (from +16 to +30),
- Setting a good example for morality in public service (from +9 to +21),
- Helping the poor (from +12 to +20) and
- Developing livelihood opportunities (from +6 to +16).

In six issues, public dissatisfaction subsided in November, compared with the September ratings. These issues were:

- Resolving the hostage taking by the Abu Sayyaf (from –36 to –6),
- Fighting inflation (-35 to –11),
- Budget management, (-20 in December 2000 to –2)
- Promoting true autonomy for Muslims in Mindanao, (from –21 to –3)
- Eradicating graft and corruption, (-28 to –12),
- Fighting crime (-22 to –8).

Falling satisfaction in 3 issues

The November poll, however, found that public satisfaction fell in three performance areas. These were:

- Reconciliation with communist rebels (from +14 in July 2000 to +7).
- Campaigning against illegal drugs (from +18 in June 1999 to +8) and
- Collecting taxes (from +4 in July 2001 to –3).

SWS looked into two new issues in the November 2001 survey. The grade for "preventing terrorist attacks" was +17. That for "caring for the interest of minorities such as Muslims" was -1.

All told, it is not correct to say that satisfaction with the government's performance was going down. It's the very opposite. There was much improvement, seen even in the rating for overall performance (the rating was up by 19 points).

Presenting the data another way reveals which issues show the most improvement.

- Resolving Abu Sayyaf hostage taking
  Improved by 30
- Fighting inflation
  Improved by 24
- Reconciling with Muslim rebels
  Improved by 22
- Ensuring medicines are affordable
  Improved by 21
- Promoting true autonomy for Muslims in Mindanao - Improved by 18
- Budget management
  Improved by 18
- Eradicating graft and corruption
  Improved by 16
- Promoting welfare of OFWs
  Improved by 14
- Fighting crime
  Improved by 14
- Setting moral example in public service
  Improved by 12
- Helping the poor
  Improved by 10
- Developing livelihood opportunities
  Improved by 10
- Promoting foreign investments
  Improved by 8
- Campaign against drugs
  Worsened by 10
- Reconciling with communist rebels
  Worsened by 7
- Collecting taxes
  Worsened by 7
- Preventing terrorist attacks
  New
- Caring for interest of minorities like the Muslims - New

The tide is rising. We hope it will lift the economy's boats.

Keeping people on their toes with wacky jokes and antics

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

RICHARD Masselin: keeps people awake.

MOVING from place to place to head a luxury hotel can be difficult.

Just when you have learned to adjust to the culture of a place and started to get along with everybody, you have to move out again.

But meeting new people and getting exposed to another culture are things that keep Richard M.P. Masselin moving.

The French-born Masselin took over the position as the new general manager of Pan Pacific Manila at Adriatico Street last November. Learning the ropes of managing the Manila branch, he says, takes some time.

MANAGEMENT STYLE

But his 2-3 years in various branches of Pan Pacific enable him to make friends and build a network. The hotel people, he considers as family.

Working in different cultures and different setups also challenge him to be flexible and patient when dealing with people. "You have to make sure that listening, understanding and communication is efficient so that the staff will have clearer understanding of what the goals are," Masselin tells the INQUIRER.

He opts for open sessions and everybody's participation in decision making. He also says that life is an ongoing learning experience so expects to learn during his tenure here in the Philippines.

Before coming to Manila, Masselin spent almost four years as the resident manager of the Pan Pacific Bangkok.

Well-traveled and exposed to various cultures, Masselin's 13 years in the hotel industry was spent in France, South Pacific, West Africa and the United States. He started out as a catering officer in Paris.

"I consider myself a gypsy," he jokes. "I've been travelling and will continue to travel, hopefully. But I enjoy it." He is here with his wife and their 5-month-old daughter.

As the new GM of Pan Pacific Hotel, Masselin brings with him his artistic side. He paints and is very sensitive when it comes to colors. In fact, he thinks of personally selecting the fabrics, changing the color of the throw pillows of the hotel and painting the menu cover.

He says that a hotel is like a home and it should provide a certain comfort and satisfaction to its customers. "It is important that you provide harmony in the place," he says.

Unlike other GM's who are often distant and cold with the staff, Masselin's cheery disposition is seen in the way he communicates with them. He likes to make his staff laugh with his wacky antics.

"It keeps you on top of your toes. It's good to move people so that they will not fall asleep," he jokes.

He believes in empowerment in any level. He says that the success of a company depends on the team behind it.

Masselin is an Institut de Management Hotelier International graduate of the prestigious Cornell-Essec in France. The 38-year-old also loves the outdoors. Among his favorites are golf, fishing, hunting and sailing.

Masselin says that he does not find it hard to communicate with the people here because the Philippines is an English-speaking country. "I find it easier to make contact because communication is almost automatic . . . you talk and there's automatic feedback."

Pan Pacific Manila is a five-star deluxe hotel established in 1998. It boasts of the largest selection of fine dining restaurants under one roof in the country. The facilities include a dining room and bar, rooftop garden; seven function rooms, executive business center, a health and fitness center, swimming pool and jacuzzi, poolside snack bar and lounger, and billiard tables.

The Pan Pacific hotels have branches at 11 countries throughout the Pacific rim.

Masselin also continues the hotel's commitment to community through their Youth Development Program by working closely with Unicef (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund). The program is designed to develop underprivileged yet promising young adults coming from far-flung provinces to improve their quality of life. He says the program reflects the mission of the company, and that is their way of giving back to the community.

Retirement suits John Gokongwei

From page C1

ness but I always went home to eat, and Sunday was reserved for them," Gokongwei says.

Daughter Lisa remembers her father bringing the whole family to the old Makati Supermarket when they were young just to eat spaghetti and buy comic books.

It was this same love for the family that made Gokongwei put the children to work early to teach them the value of money.

Lance was tasked to put the price tags on lingerie. Robina and the other daughters worked at the retail store putting price tags on the goods. Lisa says she did not even get a month's salary because she and another sister lost a whole box of goods.

"We were very strict with them. They were not allowed to go out beyond 12 midnight and I am happy that they all turned out well," Gokongwei says.

Robina heads the retail group along with Faith, while Lisa put up a publishing house.

"She came up to me and said, 'Dad I really want to go into publishing.' I asked her, will it make money? When she told me yes, I asked her how much she needed," Gokongwei says.

Lisa is the only one to work outside the established businesses ranging from food manufacturing to airline operations. Lance, a double summa cum laude graduate, is president and chair-in-waiting of the Gokongwei group.

Gokongwei is the first taipan to hand over the reins of corporate power to the second generation.

Asked if he expects the other taipans to follow, he shrugs, saying, "it is hard to give up power."

When queried if the Gokongweis would relinquish power to a non-family member in the future, he replies, "not in the next 30 years because of Lance."

But he says many of his people earn much more than he does in terms of salaries. (Of course his earnings come from dividends as he owns majority of the conglomerate.)

The 75-year-old says he does not really go for expensive things. When asked to name the most expensive item he ever bought (non-business related) it took him a while to answer.

The thought that came to his mind was the $300 he spent to buy a hat, glove, and muffler in a Bally shop, because he suddenly felt so cold and the designer shop was the only store in the area.

"I can't believe I bought a $100 hat," he says.

He says he does not spend much on things, although he admits buying his wife jewelry.

One of his obsessions these days is to lose weight. He has a 46-inch waistline and admits he loves to eat. He has to go to Hong Kong to have suits made because of his huge middle.

Going against San Miguel in 1976 earned Gokongwei the moniker "Big John" in the local business arena. His manufacturing firms, then fledgling CFC Corp. and Universal Robina Corp. competed headlong with SMC's established brands.

"All my life, I've been exposed to competition—since the age of 14 up to now. Every day I had to compete with San Miguel, with Nestlé, with all the big boys. But they always have their weak points," he says.

He admits manufacturing is a difficult market to enter, but even with the business Goliaths he had faced back then, the thought of giving up never crossed his mind.

"To go into branded goods in this country is difficult, but to go outside is even more difficult. Most people, when they see the difficulties, they stop," he says.

One thing that is noticeable with the Gokongwei group is that it was built basically on simply imitating existing products. He saw the junk food craze in the United States and set up URC with Chippy as the winner.

He saw the success of Henry Sy's SM malls so he also set up Robinson malls.

He saw the success of supercenters and set up Big "R," even imitating the look of Big "K" of the United States (which eventually went bankrupt).

But he is one of the few Filipino businessmen who has prepared well for globalization.

He went beyond overcoming his fear of encountering difficulties by having such the confidence and the heart to extend his business abroad.

"We now have (candy) factories in Thailand because sugar there is half the price. We make chocolates in Indonesia and Malaysia. We ship snacks from the Philippines. We are in a position to compete with anybody. But I think we're the only one, aside from San Miguel, which is in China, Indonesia, Hong Kong," he says.

His telecommunications firm, Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., is now on the verge of breaking into the fiercely competitive cellular service arena—on the verge of competing headlong, yet again, with the giants in the industry.

Gokongwei is ready to take on any competition. Industry giant Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. with subsidiaries Isla Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. already have almost 11 million cellular subscribers.

Grabbing a share of the cell phone market will be no easy task but Gokongwei says, "we cannot really tell you about our strategies."

The most obvious tack he will likely follow is to lower the rates.

His advice to his children is know your market, know your competition, have the resources, and have the stomach to compete.

He is leaving behind as much as he could to his children as he says he has only 10 more years ahead of him but his empire will surely live on.

Are Filipinos ready for double jobs?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A VETERAN in the manpower staffing business thinks Filipinos are indeed ready to embrace "flexible employment" at this time when the jobless rate is running on double digits and when paychecks hardly make both ends meet.

Personnel Management of the Philippines (PMAP) secretary general and Manpower Philippines country general manager Fe Tibayan Palileo said there has been a rising trend among Filipinos to earn extra from "sideline" jobs in the past few years as the cost of living standards have outpaced their salaries.

But these jobs were mostly in the nature of commission-based selling—from insurance to education plans to cured meat to jewelry—which could be lucrative to some but hardly sustainable for most.

Palileo is advocating a different kind of employment, something that uses your skills in jobs, and something which is flexible because it is done after office hours or in between the 9-5 grind.

"Flexible employment is for people who cannot go for full-time jobs such as wives and working students or those who want additional work after their office hours," Palileo said. "I think Filipinos have shed their image from being laid-back to go-getters. You can see this from the growing number of working mothers in the workplace. Long ago, most Filipino mothers were likely to be full-time housewives."

FE PALILEO: From laid-back to go-getter.

She said the boom in information and communication technology has created a vast number of opportunities for Filipinos to have double jobs like the Americans, such as data encoders and call takers. "Our good command of English, good work attitude and strategic time difference with the US have made us an ideal cite for international call centers," Palileo said.

She said this is the reason why manpower staffers are experiencing a surge in their business mainly due to the demand from ICT firms. Since most of the players are foreign companies that are doing business for the first time in the country, Palileo said they turn to manpower staffers to fill up their needs—getting 100 to 1,000 employees within three to six months before start-up.

Outsourcing

Aside from the ICT sector, Manpower staffers are also enjoying brisk business because more corporations turn to professional personnel providers to cut down costs amid a faltering economy.

Palileo said the economic slump has forced more companies to assess their operations and identify which parts of their business should be outsourced or handled by third-party providers while they focus on their core business. Palileo said the manpower staffing industry provides companies with another option in cost savings after cutting down on utility expenses, supplies and rent.

She said a company saves a lot by outsourcing some of their personnel requirements because the service provider would handle everything from finding the right man for the job to paying out the temps salaries and filing their tax and pension remittances.

But Palileo admitted that there are still major stumbling blocks before Filipinos could fully embrace flexible employment much like the rest of the developed world.

One of the major hurdles are the country's labor unions that have decried the spread of contractualization as an insidious form of union busting. "Employers, because of the obvious cost advantages, have accepted the concept. But there is strong resistance by the union because members believe that these jobs do not give them security and are therefore anti-union."

Palileo said the union leaders should be open to what is happening globally. "The contractualization of labor is not necessarily bad especially if the employer is a responsible one and the employees get what they are entitled to under the law."

Since most of the subcontracting of labor are coursed by companies through manpower suppliers, Palileo said the industry has been stigmatized as being anti-labor.

An old hand in the staffing business, Palileo said personnel suppliers have changed their image drastically over the years from filling up only companies' minimum wage, clerical or office maintenance jobs to mostly white-collar jobs.

For example, Manpower's 370 employees deployed in the country's blue chip earn a minimum of P10,000 to P12,000 a month, receiving life and medical insurance benefits above those mandated by law. "We even have a 'temp' in a high-level IT project who earns P100,000 a month," Palileo said.

Another obstacle that the manpower staffing industry has to hurdle is the aversion by some Filipinos of getting employed through an agency.

Palileo asked: "What is so embarrassing to be referred to as an employee of service provider and being assigned to different companies when this will basically improve your skills and expose individuals to different work environments?"

Palileo said getting work through an agency would help fresh graduates to immediately flex their academic muscles in an actual workplace to prepare them for a job that they want. "People from exclusive schools are brainwashed that you can get the best job from day one of your graduation because of your educational background. It doesn't work that way for most people."

Housekeeping can raise a business' productivity

By Ditas A. Esguerra
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

GOING INTO BUSINESS

INSIDE a factory, a worker searches for the right die from a pile of assorted shapes and sizes. An operator asks another which buttons to press in a machine. Still another leaves a printing machine idle while he takes his sweet time getting a roll of paper from the stockroom. A sewer waits for the work-in-process of another in an assembly line. Strips of cloth lie around the floor, surrounding the cutter's table.

If these scenes sound familiar, then you need to practice better housekeeping.

You may ask : "What's the difference? As long as I can meet my deadlines, why bother about my disorganized workplace?"

Did you know that your workplace tells a lot about you, your company, and your products?

Housekeeping means keeping the shop floor clean and organized. It implies storing materials, tools and equipment properly and in the most practical way, at the same time making them accessible. It means making the place conducive to working.

There are no hard and fast rules in practicing housekeeping at the workplace. As a matter of fact, it builds on common sense. The principle of "having a place for everything and everything in its place" aptly summarizes it all.

Why Keep House?

Housekeeping goes beyond keeping floors clean and organizing racks. The goal in implementing housekeeping activities is to reduce the cost of your product.

For example, you need to organize your dies and let your worker keep the most frequently used pieces closest to the machine to minimize handling. Putting the less frequently used ones in a rack with labels reduces the time he spends looking for them.

Clean surfaces such as floors and machines help you uncover problems like oil leaks and cracks. This allows you to take corrective action as early as possible. Clutter in the shop floor exposes your materials and finished goods to possible damage and interferes with the smooth transportation of these items.

Damaged goods need repair or rework, i.e., if they do not become rejects. This is added cost however you see it. Unnecessary materials do not only a clutter make. Electrical handtools protruding along passageways injure your workers especially if these are left running. Work-related accidents can drain your budget.

Do you keep your materials in an orderly manner? Do you label your racks and shelves? Do you just leave the cans of lacquer and varnish on the floor without any distinction between old stocks and newly delivered ones?

How about your premises? Are there heaps of wood splinters, sawdust and other materials that can catch fire? Dispose your garbage daily to prevent the spread of germ-carrying insects that contaminate your food products.

5S concepts, application

The Japanese consider 5S, which stands for good housekeeping concepts, as the basis for continual productivity and quality improvements. As a company-wide activity, implementing 5S would translate into better work performance, quality work and good attitudes.

In the Philippines, many companies have yet to be aware of 5S and its benefits. But the implementation of 5S concepts is really within reach of most companies; and the concepts are as applicable to small enterprises as to large ones.

In original Japanese terms, 5S stands for *Seiri*, *Seiton*, *Seiso*, *Seiketsu*, and *Shitsuke* which mean Sort, Systematize, Sweep, Sustain and Self-discipline.

1S Seiri. Sort out unnecessary items in the workplace and discard them. First, identify items you no longer need. Post a disposal notice card or slip on each item describing what it is, why it is there, who uses it or whom it was issued to, and when it is to be disposed of.

At the end of the stated period, e.g, review the cards/slips to see if any one responded with a need to keep the item.

Remember that one man's trash may be another's treasure. You can convert returned goods into cash by selling them to *tiangge* stallholders. If you have finished goods that have accumulated dust, spray them with some finish for a new look before selling them. But then, you can also let them go as they are.

2S Seiton. Systematize or arrange necessary items in good order so your workers can pick them up easily for use. Decide on the best and most practical ways of storing items. Live the principle of having a place for everything and putting everything in its place.

Label all machines, equipment, racks and shelves. Provide on-the-spot key information for each piece of equipment. This means attaching a card to record machine status, checkpoints and maintenance schedules. Post vital information on machine handling and work procedure.

If possible, attach improvised pockets to hold frequently used hand tools. Draw the outline of the tools in the tool board to ensure that the user returns them to their proper place. Label the hooks for hanging the jigs and patterns so they do not get mixed up.

3S Seiso. Sweep and clean your workplace completely and leave no dust or grease on the floor and equipment. Schedule a general cleanup day once or twice yearly. This is also the time for you to undertake a general inspection on the equipment. The activities include removing all those cobwebs, thorough scrubbing of the ceiling, walls, and floor, and cleaning of machines.

Seiso activities that you can do twice a month include wiping lighting fixtures and windows, scrubbing rest rooms and drinking fountains, and oiling electric fans. You can brighten the whole shop floor by painting the ceiling and walls with a light color. This will also allow you to detect grime and dirt easily.

For regular cleanup chores, give your workers about five minutes daily to tidy their workstation, including the equipment they use before they go home. This motivates the next worker (if you operate in shifts), or even the same person himself, to start work immediately the next day.

Cultivate the habit of collecting waste even before it touches the floor. Attach a sack or bag in one or two ends of the cutting table where you can slide down cloth strips immediately

4S Seiketsu. Achieve self-discipline by maintaining a high standard of housekeeping and workplace organization at all times. This is a result of having 5S as a company-wide undertaking.

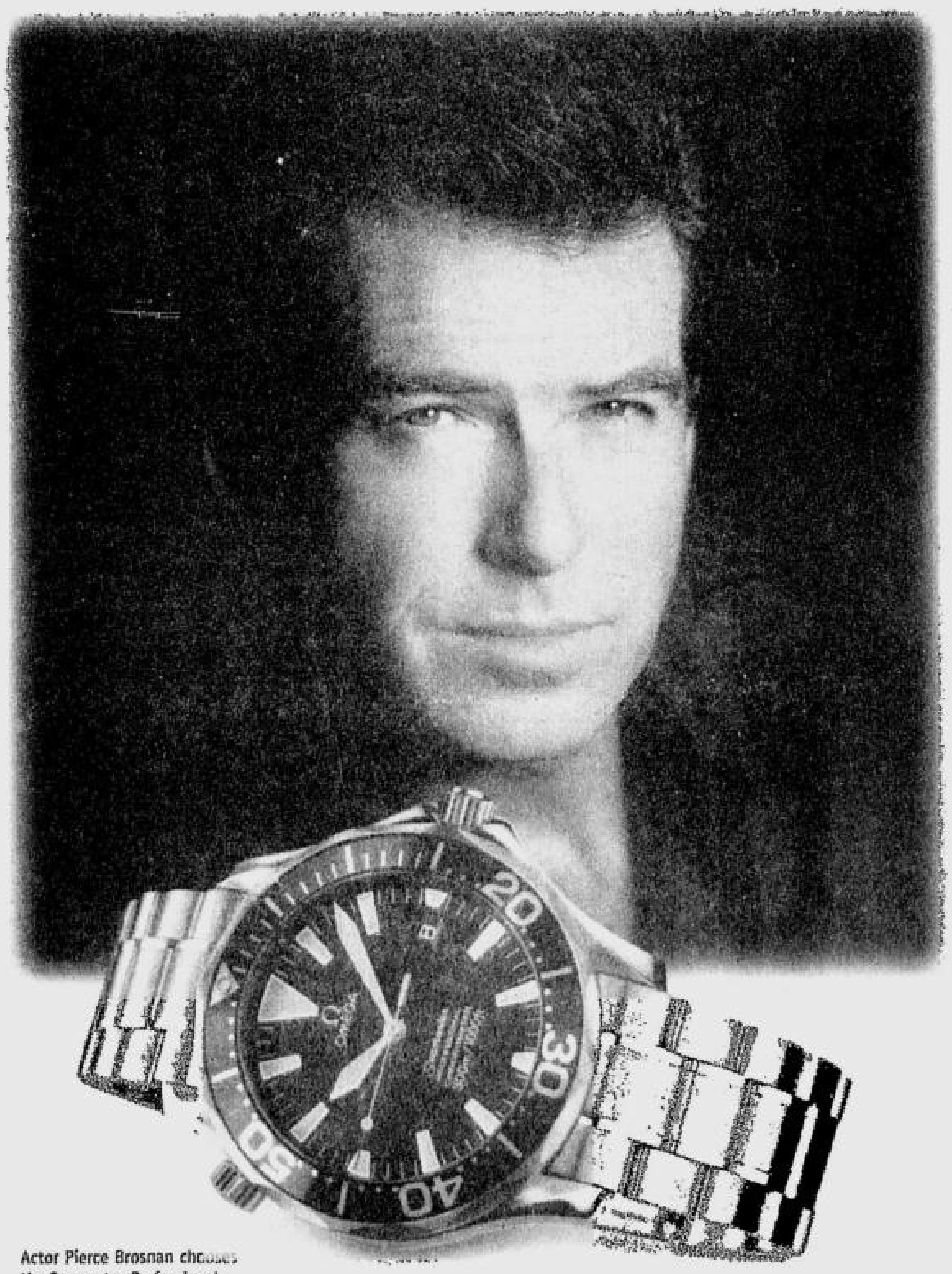
Because everybody participates in setting the standard, he or she shares in the concern for maintaining that standard. With a sense of pride and satisfaction over their achievement, your workers can now help each other keep premises clean and orderly.

5S Shitsuke. Sustain housekeeping interest among workers. One way to do this is by posting reminders in strategic locations. These reminders can be textual, visual, or a combination of both.

Another way is to hold contests to recognize the cleanest section. These will enable your workers to get used to the housekeeping discipline until it becomes second nature to them.

The practice of 5S thrives on the idea that a clean workplace is safe; it develops a culture of discipline among workers that gives them a sense of pride and belonging; and motivates them to give their best.

Pierce
Brosnan's Choice



Actor Pierce Brosnan chooses
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Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines
CONVENTION 2002

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MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE, MANILA

I CONVEY my warmest greetings to the men and women of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines (LUA) as you hold your convention and Million-Dollar Round Table Day.

Your continued participation in our quest to win the war against poverty remains vital. Consistent with our promotion of an economic philosophy of free enterprise appropriate for the 21st century; local businesses, industries and professionals are called upon to fuel sustainable economic growth. While the advances we have made in reforming our policies and institutions have brought about immediate results, much remains to be done to address the growing needs of an industrializing economy.

Accept my sincerest appreciation of your efforts to raise the quality of your services. May you continue to build upon your achievements by striving to be more attuned to the needs of your clients and of business. Let this gathering contribute to the realization of our vision for a peaceful and prosperous life for the most number of Filipinos, especially the poor and disadvantaged.

Mabuhay and may you have a fruitful convention.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines in the holding of their LUA Convention 2002 and the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Day.

"LOVE *Life*" is a most appropriate conference theme during this period in our nation's history when we need the support of a dynamic and committed private sector. As the administration continues to chart the path to sustained economic development to better the lives of the poorer sector of our society, we are hopeful this challenge continues to be our primary concern.

This is the immediate task before us today. I sincerely wish that as we confront this challenge together we will draw support and inspiration from each other, knowing that we are strategic partners in our nation's progress and development.

Congratulations to the Organizing Committee of this twin undertaking. All my best wishes for a successful conference.

HON. JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary
Department of Finance

INSURANCE COMMISSION

Greetings to the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines (LUAP)!

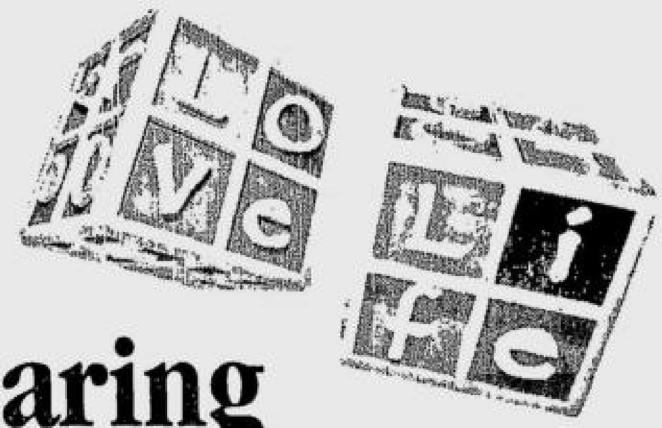
Nothing could be simpler, and yet, more profound than "LOVE Life", your chosen theme for this year's LUA Convention and Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Day. Indeed, life is a very precious gift from our Creator, and it deserves to be used meaningfully, respectably, and if possible, comfortably.

The insurance sector upholds life, and as such, we, in this industry, ought to love our respective professions wholeheartedly. But there are many ways to love. In this Convention and MDRT Day, LUAP would help you count the ways in which to "LOVE Life" to its utmost depth, breadth, and height.

Good luck and may this endeavor bear the desired results.

EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Insurance Commissioner

MDRT commences expertise sharing



LUAP welcomes this year's participants in the association's 18th annual convention.

Through the years, the association has successfully gathered local and international insurance industry leaders and luminaries from the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Here, they will share their expertise and experience with it's members.

This year's line-up of speakers is led by Marvin Feldman, MDRT president and Robert Young, Insurance Industry Leader, Asia Pacific.

The convention starts today at Dusit Hotel Nikko and dedicates tomorrow as MDRT day to honor the country's MDRT candidates and qualifiers.

For members in the Visayas and Mindanao, the convention will be on March 1, 2002 at the Cebu Plaza Hotel.

MARVIN Feldman
2002 MDRT president

ROBERT Young,
Insurance Industry Leader,
Asia Pacific

Human compassion set into motion a chain of humanitarian acts and universal cooperation. It rose above the utter devastation on that tragic day in September. It is only fitting that we dedicate this year's convention to life and love, in celebration of man's response to conflict and iniquity. We, in the business of life, more than ever, are called not only to secure life, but care, nurture and touch lives. At stake is a future of peace and prosperity. Love Life, it's the only way to win.

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Time well-spent with agents, family, social work

ONE of the most striking qualities of Jose L. Cuisia Jr., president and chief executive officer of The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., is he goes out and listens to his agents. A quality that rightly fits him to his job since Philamlife caters to the broadest segment of the market--from classes A to E--and needs somebody from the top who can motivate the agents to talk to people whichever social class they belong.

Cuisia also has, time and again, expressed his love for the country, speaking before international audiences to invest in the Philippines. Always looking at the positive, he believes the country can enjoy a brighter future. "We just need to get our acts together."

As head of the country's largest insurance company, he said that its investment of P3.2 billion for its Philamlife Tower along Paseo de Roxas is in consonance with the company's never-ending mission to sustain industry leadership and excellence of service to its ever-growing list of clientele. Philamlife's vision is focused on being the most diversified and comprehensive provider of quality and innovative products and services responsive to the needs of its customers.

He says that the company is committed to actively participate in nation-building and to ultimately contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of every Filipino.

Beside being the top executive of Philamlife, Cuisia is also chair of the Philam Foundation.

The foundation is currently raising funds for its latest project the Aid for Basilan Children or the ABC Fund Drive. This program aims to collect funds from the public to help educate children in Basilan, which may be in the form of school materials, transportation fees and nutritious meals.

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a private, national, and non-profit corporate-led foundation that encourages business sector commitment to social development, will help Philam Foundation identify qualified beneficiaries and administer the program in Basilan.

To help raise the funds, the company has allotted part of the proceeds of every policy sold to the fund drive.

Cuisia was a former governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines and has held different positions in various private and government financial institutions.

He has five daughters, namely Joline, Jamie, Nana, Jessica and Justine. He fondly calls them "my treasures."

His schedule with the private sector is now less hectic compared to when he was Central Bank governor. He has definitely more free time now, and uses these occasions to go out during weekends with his family.

A devoted Opus Dei, Cuisia firmly believes that religion plays a very important role in his ability to do well in his work. He starts his day by going to Mass to keep him focused on the day ahead.

JOSE L. Cuisia Jr.

Gathering precious lessons moving up

VICTOR Quisumbing, president and chief executive officer of Philippine Axa Life Insurance Corp., is one sterling example of a person who has risen from the ranks.

"I've learned from the beginning, I started as an agent," says Quisumbing as he relates how from an agent out in the field, prodding and making sales, he became the chief executive officer of one of the country's top insurance company.

"So people look up to me in terms of learning, 'can I also be like him and maybe one day I'll be also a president?'," he relates, explaining that other people can derive inspiration from his story.

He adds, however, that success for him did not come on a silver platter. He says that hard work is a main component of it and it is something that he wants to impress on other people.

VICTOR Quisumbing

"There's no secret, it's purely hard work," he emphasizes.

Quisumbing also reveals the reason for his fondness of speaking to groups is that this would be his venue for people to see the bigger perspective--a perspective that comes from his own life.

"I want to be able to help people succeed, to be able to influence people to have some fulfillment in life, maybe I can be part of that. That to me is important. I'm talking about being able to influence them to greater heights," he says.

He says that sometimes he would even go out of his way to provide some examples of the past to be able to make people understand how it works.

"Fortunately I've been in this business since way back and I've been able to do that. People look at me as a person who is able to command respect and also actually provide them experience, because they know I was there myself. Once upon a time I was an agent also. It's very difficult to teach when somebody has not achieved it," he says.

As a former member of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines, he says that he would definitely advise anybody in the agency force to be part of LUAP.

"I was very active in the organization, and when one is active one is able to derive a lot of benefits. There's a give and take in there. You give a lot of yourself and you take also a lot of what can be achieved. That to me is crucial. LUA has been able to do that through the years. It is a very excellent organization," he says.

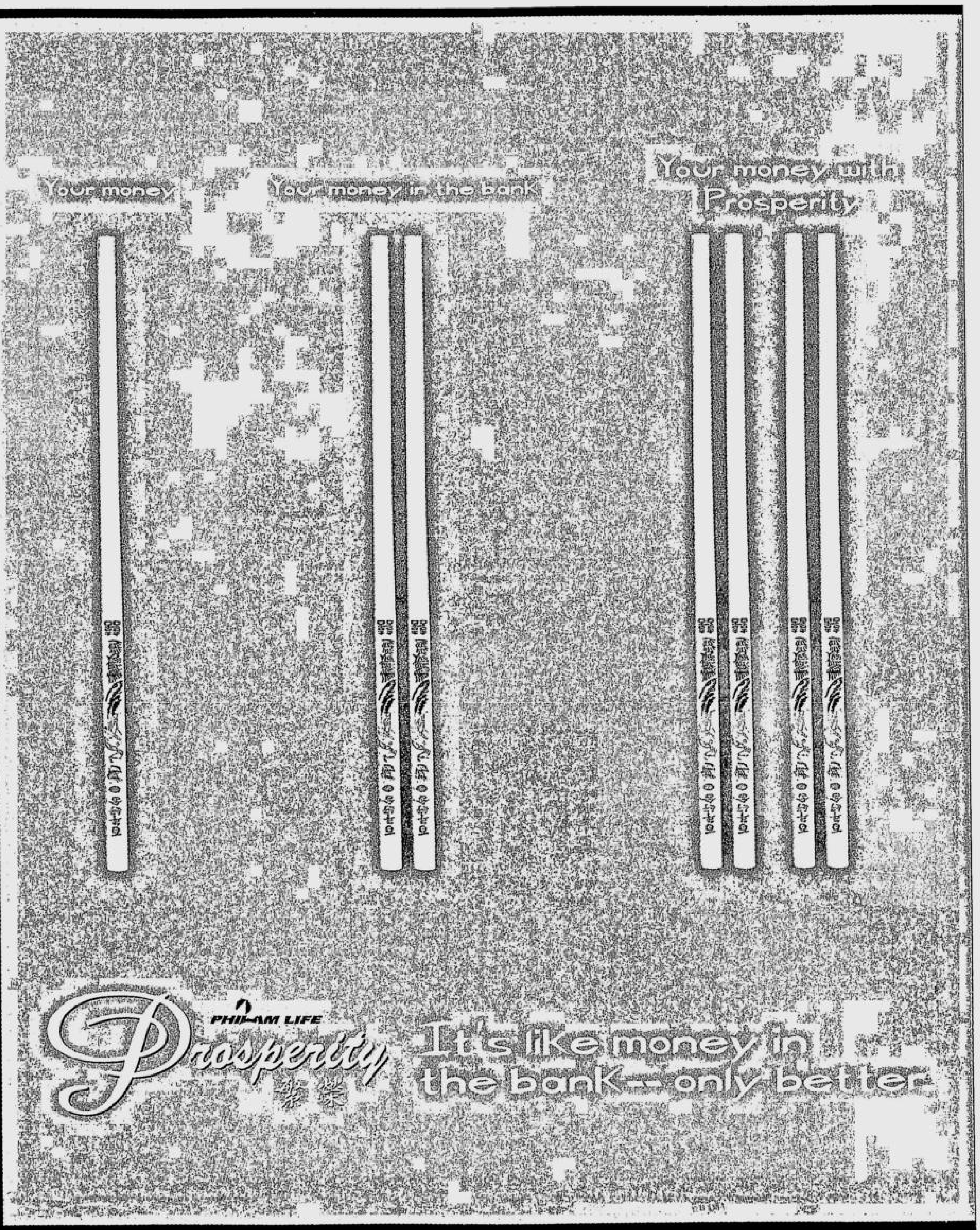
LUAP has provided a venue for life insurance professionals to come together, learn from each other and be able to impact on the community. These are the people who will be looking at the code of ethics and live it. That is very important for the profession. You must have ethical individuals operating in the marketplace."

He imparts words of advice for the agents.

"We have seen that agents, for as long as they are properly trained, for as long as they are given the right reasons to express themselves to the marketplace, are able to sell life insurance. This is the result, a 160-percent increase in sales," says Quisumbing telling how his company, Philippine Axa Life, performed last year amidst economic crisis.

Quisumbing took over as president of Philippine Axa Life middle of 2001, succeeding Chee Cheong.

He is better known to his colleagues as "Mr. Q". He has four kids, two of whom are currently in the United States. One has just finished college, while the other is still studying. He says that his wife has been extremely supportive of his efforts to work hard and has always been there on his side since his time as an agent.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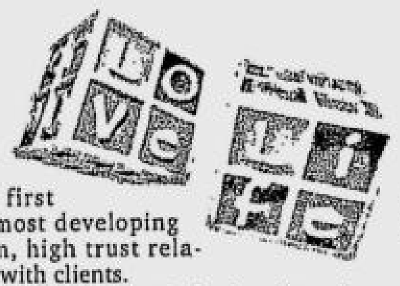
LUTC Open Agency Course boosts COCOLIFE sales training

FOR THE PAST several years, Cocolife has focused on the professional training of its sales force as one of the major thrusts of the company. On January 31, this year, this received a boost with the inauguration of the 13-week LUTC course on "Exploring Your Personal Markets" through the open agency system at the Cocolife Training Center.

LUTC Fellow Remy Armendi, immediate past president of Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines (LUAP) and LUTC Consultant, is course facilitator. The holding of the course at Cocolife – a first for the company — was arranged by Mariles Quevada, the first LUTC Fellow of Cocolife and Treasurer and Trustee of LUAP, together with Atty. Alfredo C. Tumacder Jr., Cocolife President, and Efren Yambot, Head of Individual Marketing Division.

Another milestone involving the company's sales force is the hefty increase in the number of LUAP members from among the Cocolife sales force: 174, and still growing.

A total of 25 Cocolifers – including underwriters, field managers and trainers – have enrolled for the open agency LUTC course. Most of them are among the 546 graduates of Cocolife's own Agency Development Course (ADC), developed by the Sales Training Dept. headed by Vice President Daniel Van Soto, which hones the selling skills, enhances knowledge and self-confidence of managers and agents alike. The ADC also reinforces the Code of Ethics which all Cocolife underwriters are sworn to follow from the very start of their careers. Most seminars offered by Cocolife's Sales Training Dept. are also designed to incorporate the affective type of training – steeped in values, promoting the best practices in customer service and developing good interpersonal skills. Cocolife's sales trainers and training director adhere to the view that selling life insurance means first and foremost developing long-term, high trust relationships with clients.



An offshoot of the ADC is the founding of the ADC Graduates Association, now a dynamic organization within Cocolife promoting ethical sales practices, sales clinics, study groups as well as camaraderie among alumni of the ADC. Most of the top sales performers in the various categories, as well as qualifiers for the annual travel incentives abroad (Bangkok, Beijing, LA-Las Vegas, Sydney-Gold Coast, and this year the Asian Discovery Cruise of three Southeast Asian countries) are ADC graduates and members of the association.

For the year 2002, Cocolife aims to have more than 2,000 licensed agents, 500 agency managers and around 140 branch managers nationwide. Its long-term objective, according to Atty. Tumacder (also called ACT by the sales force) is to be the "insurer of choice." The company has set four major directions in going for this goal, according to ACT. These are: 1) Leadership in the industry, specifically, to be no. 5 in terms of first year business, and no. 6 in total premiums, in the next few years; 2) Financial stability and growth; 3)Customer focus – through innovative products and services, as well as continuous improvement in client services, with its – so far – exclusive accreditation with ISO 9001 as a major thrust, and 4) Become the principal of choice – of agents, managers, brokers, and so on.

The professionalization of the sales force through its training programs is one of the critical lynchpins of the Company as it charts these directions during the first few years of the new decade.

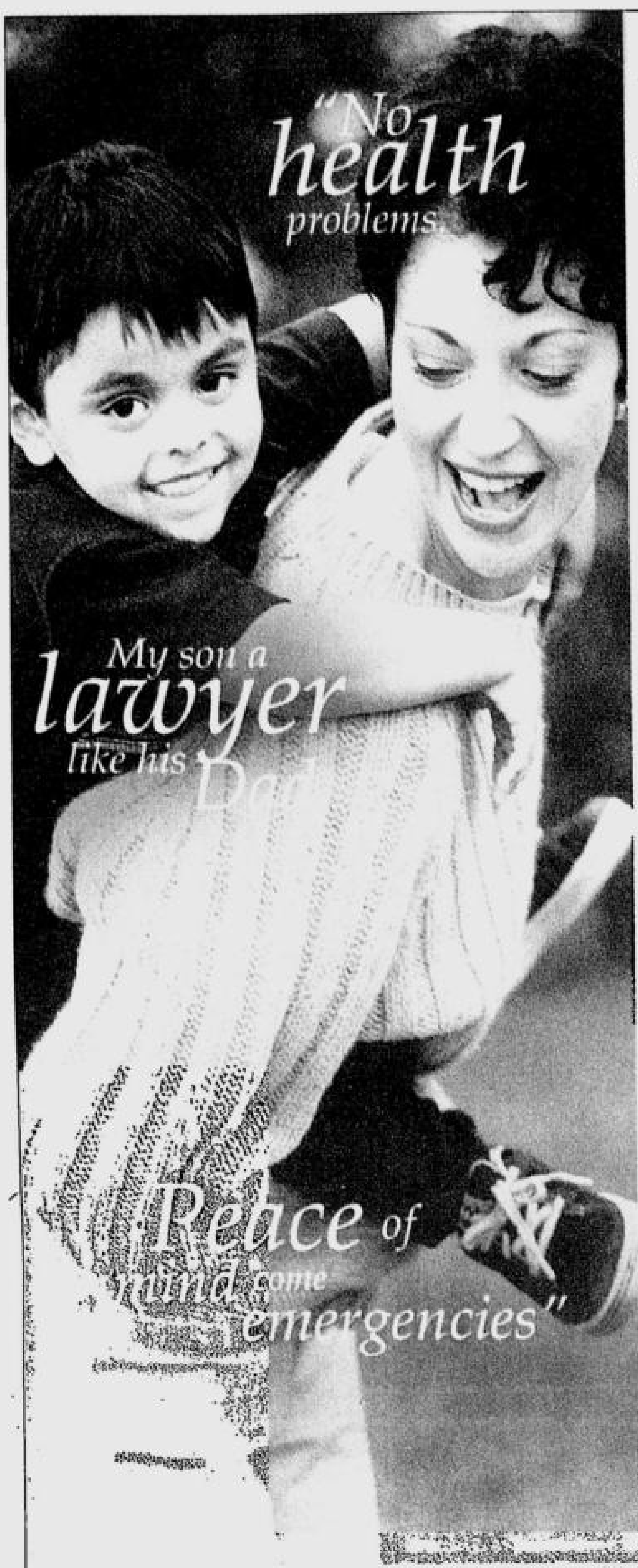
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1 / FEBRUARY 25, 2002

8:00 am	Opening Ceremony	
	Invocation	Mrs. Flor B. Geronimo
	National Anthem	Mr. Guiseppe Lauro E. Morta
	Welcome Remarks	Atty. Felicisimo N. Geronimo, Jr., LUTCF 2002 LUAP President
	LUA HIGHLIGHTS	
8:50 – 9:00	INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER Mr. Enrico A. Capule Philamlife	
9-9:40	KEYNOTE ADDRESS The Honorable Eduardo T. Malinis Commissioner Insurance Commission	
9:40-10:10	THEME MESSAGE Mr. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. *President & CEO* The Philippine American Life & General Insurance Company, Inc.	
10:30-11:30	MR. MARVIN FELDMAN *President* Million Dollar Round Table	
11:30 - 12 noon	MR. VICTOR QUISUMBING *President & CEO* Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation	
12 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK	
1:30-2:00	MR. ENRICO A. CAPULE Senior Agency Manager PHILAMLIFE	
2:00-2:30	ANNE-MARIE LEE, AFP, LUTCF	
2:30-3:00	SANI KUDUS, AFP, LUTCF, FLMI	
3:00-3:30	MICHAEL SEOW	
3:30-3:50	BREAK Song number by Mr. Gino Manahan of Cocolife	
3:50-4:20	MR. & MRS. RONNIE RICKETTS	
4:20-5:05	MR. REX MA. A. MENDOZA President, Philam Asset Management, Inc.	
5:05-5:15	ANNOUNCEMENTS	

DAY 2 / FEBRUARY 26, 2002

8-8:40 am	Opening Ceremony MDRT 2001 HIGHLIGHTS HONORING THE MDRT CANDIDATES
8:40 – 8:50	[Song number by Gino Manahan/Guiseppe Lauro Morta]
8:50-9:30	MR. KENTRY ALEXANDER *Senior Consultant for Sales & Distribution Development* CMG Life Insurance Company, Inc.
9:30 – 10:00	MR. REX TANTIONGCO Consultant DBP, World Bank
10:00 - 10:20	BREAK
10:20 - 10:50	Atty. JOSEPHINE TAÑADA YAM NARCISO 1st Filipino Internet Lawyer
10:50-11:30	MR. VICENTE AYLLON *President & Chairman of the Board* The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.
11:30-12 noon	MS. REBECCA SY *MDRT Qualifier* Sunlife of Canada
12 – 2:00 pm	MDRT LUNCH MS. JOSIE GOTOHIO – First Life MS. TESS DADA – Insular Life MR. MARVIN FELDMAN – MDRT President MS. REBECCA SY – Sunlife of Canada MS. ANNE-MARIE LEE – Prudential Assurance Singapore
*Announcement of MDRT Requirements – MS. VALERIE WONG DE LEON MDRT IMCC, ZONE CHAIR	
2:00-2:20	MS. DOROTHY ONG – *MDRT Qualifier*, Nippon Life
2:20-2:40	MS. LOU COLLADA – Pru Life of U.K.
2:40-3:00	MR. RAMON CABRERA – Vice-President & Head of Provincial Sales Division The Insular Life Assurance Company, Inc.
3:00-3:20	MR. JERRY MIRAFLOR 1st *Vice-President* – Head of Sales Cocolife
3:20-3:40	COFFEE BREAK
3:40-4:10	MS. VIVIAN ZAPANTA *Resort Manager* Westin Philippine Plaza
4:10-4:40	MR. GUILLERMO LUZ *Executive Director* Makati Business Club
4:40-5:10	MR. NOEL TAN *HRD Consultant*, BUSINESS MATTERS
5:10-6:10	MR. ROBERT YOUNG
6:10-6:25	CLOSING REMARKS Ms. Remedios A. Armendi, LUTCF 2001 President 2002 Over-all Convention Chair
6:25-6:40	CLOSING CEREMONY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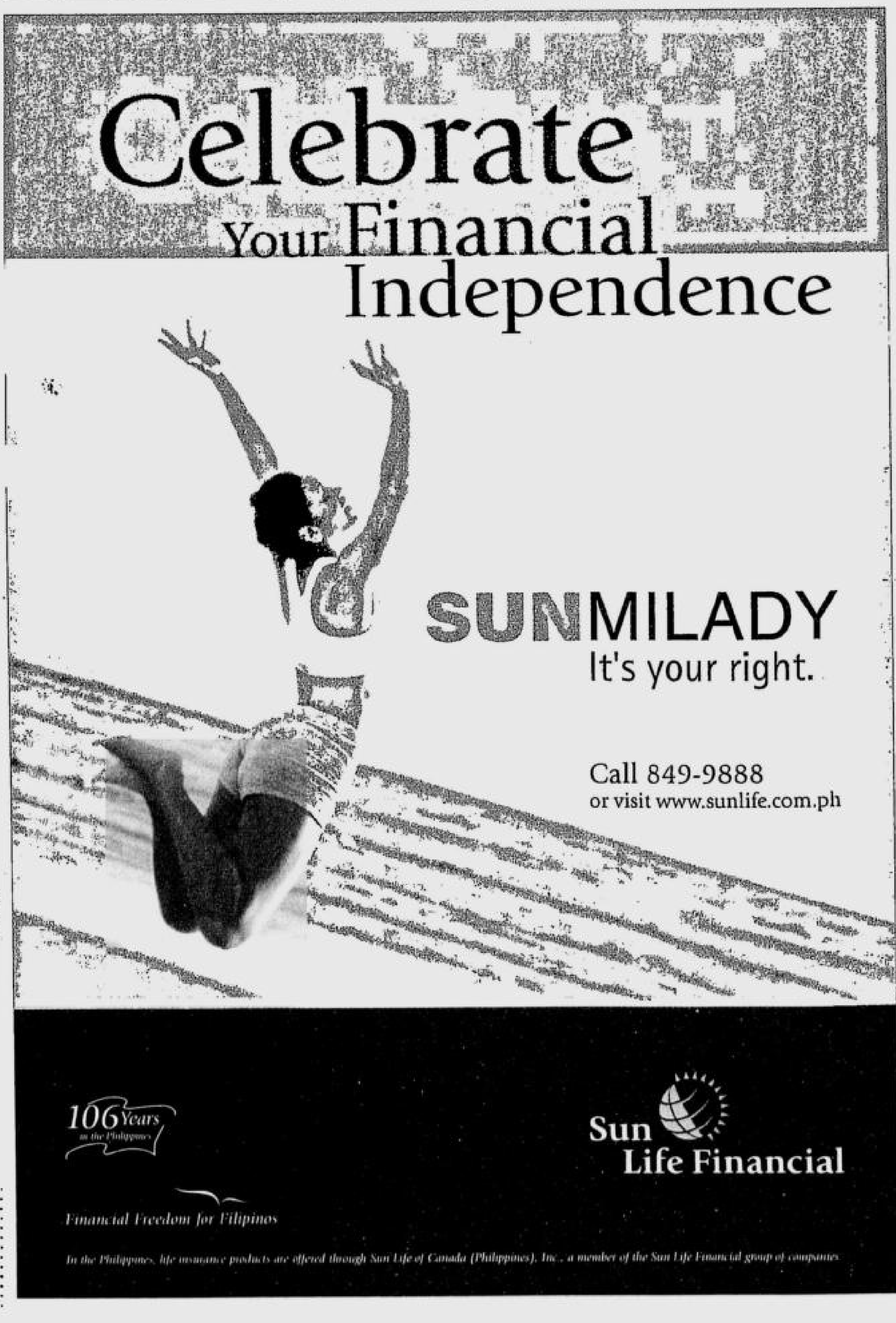
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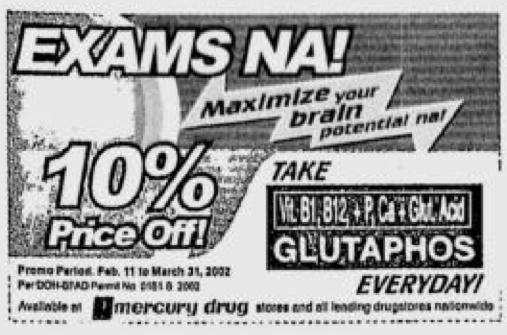
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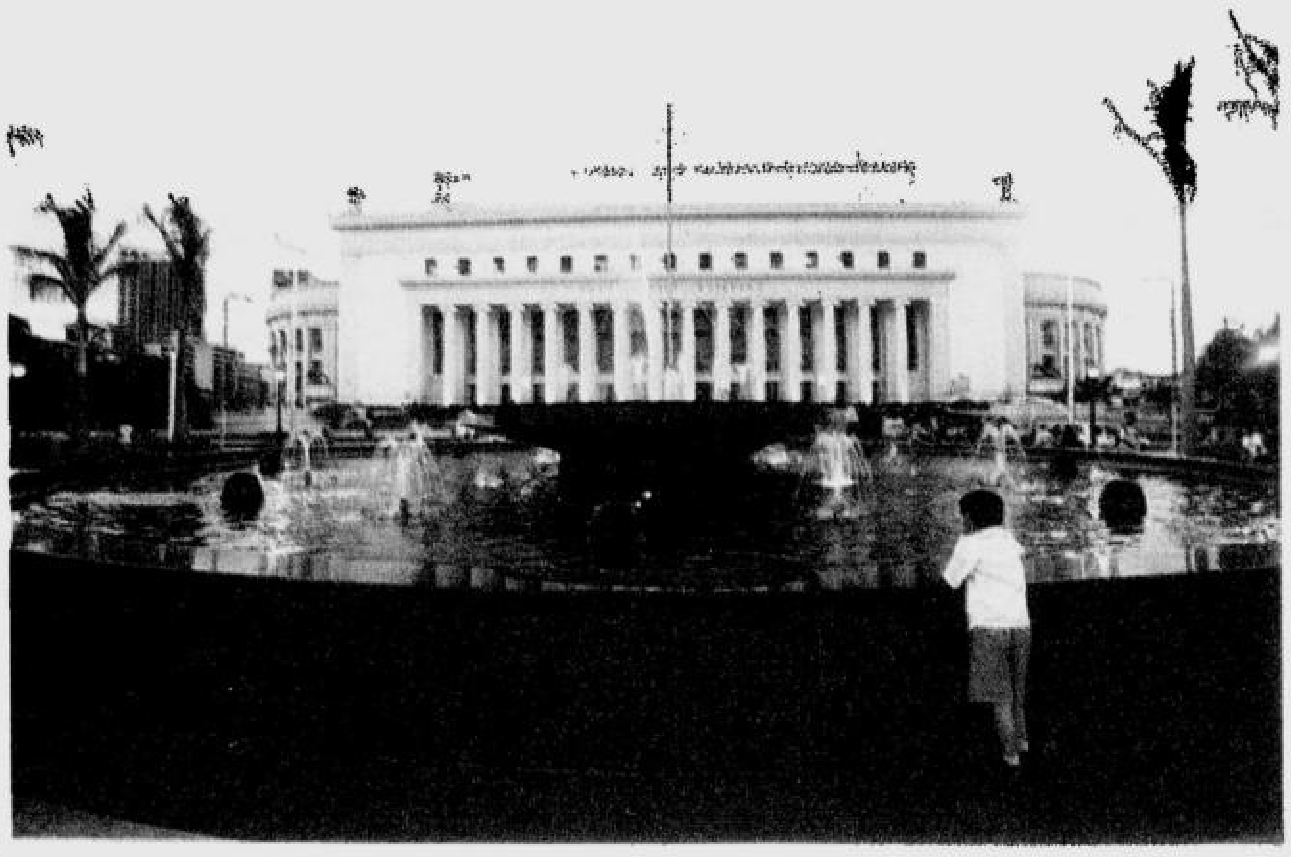

A seedy public place is revitalized

THE LIQUID magnificence of renovated fountain alleviates the stone and steel oppressiveness of the plaza.

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Plaza Lawton gets a face-lift; but what about Mehan?

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE NEW Plaza Lawton made its debut last Feb. 1 with a glittering outdoor con cert organized by the City of Manila. The new plaza is the first urban improvement project completed by the city's Flagship Projects Office with the participation of the Heritage Conservation Society.

Plaza Lawton (now called Liwasang Bonifacio) is a Manila landmark. It was an important feature in the development plan for Manila by the American architect Daniel Burnham in the early part of the 20th century. It was intended to be the southern terminus of the broad Taft Avenue axis, once lined with stately acacias all the way from the Post Office to the Pasay boundary. The imposing Post Office, designed by Juan Arellano in 1934 was the architectural anchor of the Taft Avenue axis. The area had lost its acacias due to road widening but it still contains some surviving architectural gems from the American period: the National Museum buildings, Philippine Normal University, Philippine General Hospital and De La Salle University.

Not spared

Like the rest of Manila, Taft Avenue has not been spared of destruction. Despite furious protest, the Heritage Conservation Society was not able to save the former Jai-Alai Building that once stood there. The structure was demolished and never replaced by the Hall of Justice proposed for the site. A year after the Jai-Alai debacle, the fate of Mehan Garden, another severely threatened heritage site along Taft Avenue and adjacent to Plaza Lawton, remains unresolved, but that is another issue. Plaza Lawton degenerated into a no-man's land choked by a constant traffic snarl on ground level where southbound traffic coming from two bridges that cross the Pasig feed into Taft Avenue. Above ground level, a spaghetti of overpasses channel northbound Taft Avenue traffic to three bridges that cross the Pasig. Instead of being the park that it was originally envisioned to be, Plaza Lawton has deteriorated into a polluted, dusty traffic interchange that is very hostile to people.

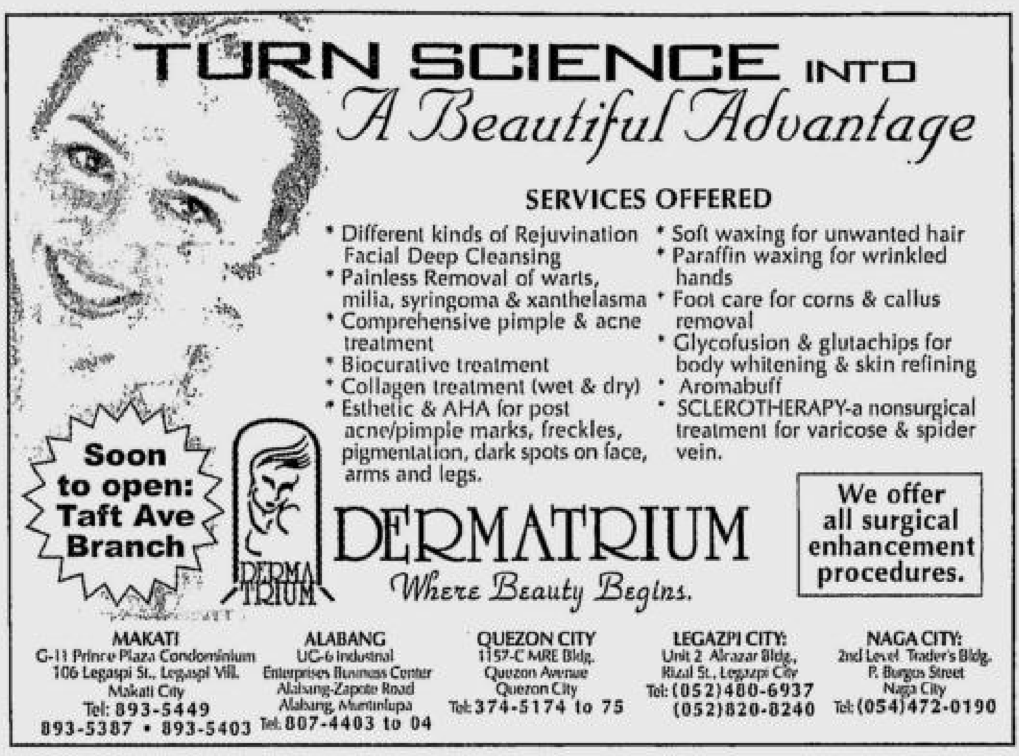
The overriding campaign of the Heritage Conservation Society is conservation as a way to preserve our urban heritage and improve the quality of life in our cities. When it learned that the Flagship Projects Office of the City of Manila (the agency formidably tasked with designing all of the civic architecture of the Atienza administration) had the redesign of Plaza Lawton on its agenda, the HCS took a proactive stand and participated in the design process. Learning from the Mehan Garden issue, the HCS saw the necessity for public consultation before the start of any civic infrastructure projects.

Interface

Consultation with the Flagship Projects Office began in October 2001 when Carlos Celdran, head of the HCS Design Bureau, coordinated HCS member volunteers to form a Plaza Lawton team to pool their design talents with the rookie architects of the Flagship Projects Office. Celdran interfaced with the city architects, provided reference material for sustainable open spaces in urban areas, collating the suggestions by the volunteer professionals, including providing color schemes for the Post Office.

Adrian Lizares reviewed the landscaping plans, suggesting their simplification and the placement of benches and landscaping elements. The proposed blue-and-maroon pavement pattern gave way to limited walkways and a maximum of open-grass areas. Architect Ed Calma reviewed the plans for Plaza Lawton, suggesting that the concrete surfaces be minimized and softened by planting. The bulky pseudo-"Spanish Mediterranean" colonnade flanking the statue of Bonifacio in front of the Post Office was replaced with two parallel rows of fully grown royal palms. Albert Avellana, principal of Avellana Art Gallery, developed a public art program for the plaza

PLAZA/ p.D2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TREE conservation improves "shade" potential of park.

GREEN ambience is underscored by plant benches.

Plaza Lawton gets a face-lift; but what about Mehan?

From page D1

that specifies two outdoor public sculpture galleries. The design criterion followed for the plaza was that it must be totally people-friendly unlike the other open spaces in Manila.

Consultation with private sector volunteers produced one of Manila's first people-friendly open areas. A plus was that that the construction was completed at a sum less than what it would have cost the city to construct all the "Spanish" colonnades and concrete covering that the city's architects originally had wanted to do.

Approval and concert

A few weeks before the construction began, the Flagship Projects Office convened a roundtable discussion at City Hall attended by the Mayor, the HCS, members of the National Historical Institute that exercises jurisdiction over Plaza Lawton by virtue of its being a historical site, the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, community leaders and students. The revised plans for Plaza Lawton were presented, discussed and suggestions were encouraged before the permission was given to proceed with the construction.

On inauguration night, the "Three Tenors"—Nolyn Cabahug, Lemuel de la Cruz and Serna—sang opera arias to the accompaniment of the Manila Symphony Orchestra. The audience was enthralled. The setting was something Manila had never experienced. Backdropped by the newly repainted Manila Post Office, the Plaza Lawton was freshly planted with fully grown royal palms soaring above lush landscaping, and at long last with adequate lighting and new park benches. Nobody was aware of the pioneering cooperative effort between the public and private sectors to revitalize one of the seediest public spaces in Manila.

Plaza Lawton shows that public and private sector cooperation can work. It now takes its place as the centerpiece of a proposed green belt in central Manila that extends from the Pasig River boundary of the Arroceros Forest Park, going around the Metropolitan Theater to include Mehan Garden behind it, and crossing over to Puerta del Parian in Intramuros where the former Asean Garden awaits rehabilitation. An integrated green belt revives one of Manila's most congested and underutilized areas into a set of public lungs that will give Manileños breathing space plus the vegetation to renew their polluted city air.

Uncertain

Nobody knows whether that green belt will happen. The Mehan Garden issue remains unresolved, with the Department of Tourism not making any commitments to the proposal submitted in August 2001 for the City of Manila to restore the ruins of the former Ateneo Municipal as a building for the City College of Manila.

The future of Arroceros Forest Park is likewise uncertain. The word is out that the Mayor intends to construct housing for Manila teachers in the park property.

The Park and Ride Building was completed despite a temporary restraining order from the DENR that carries a daily fine of P50,000 imposed on its developer until the issuance of a proper environmental clearance certificate. Not only that, the Park and Ride is to be an inner-city terminal for provincial buses, when most cities in the world locate bus terminals outside the city in locations where passengers conveniently can transfer to the LRT and MRT.

The cultural recovery process includes the recovery of our urban heritage and the green spaces that improve the quality of city life. The Three Tenors and the Manila Symphony Orchestra have become part of the recovery dance, but we must not forget that morning in June 2001 when another set of "three tenors" serenaded the absent Mayor Atienza during the World Environment Day celebration held at the Arroceros Forest Park. They sang, "I've never seen a poem as lovely as a tree." Without our urban heritage and green spaces, can we sustain our political and economic recovery programs?

For membership and program information, contact the Heritage Conservation Society at 521-2239 and 522-2497, or visit www.hcsphils.org. Visit the HCS Secretariat at the Museo Pambata Building, Roxas Boulevard and TM Kalaw Street in Manila.

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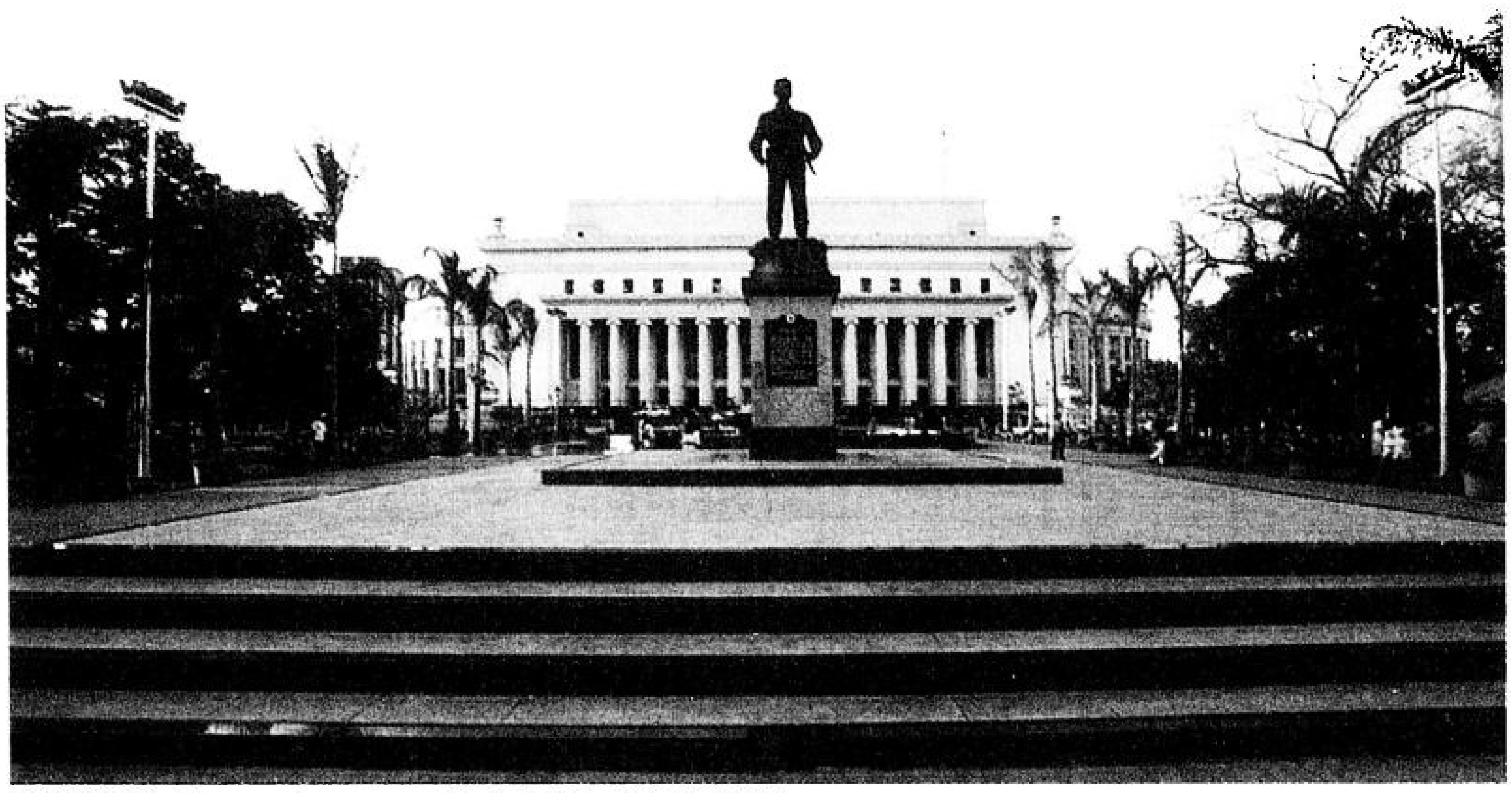

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POND and eagle statue accentuate park's rustic demeanor.

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Holy Spirit art mentors at 101, Ciani at Duemila, Endaya at Drawing Room, miniatures at UST Museum

VISUAL ARTS

THE FINE arts faculty of the College of the Holy Spirit is holding an exhibit at Gallery 101 (near Santo Domingo Church, QC) until March 4. Exhibitors include Fernando Catague, Wesley Valenzuela, Romeo Gutierrez, Aaron Pormarejo, George Ng, Ching Belleza, Lisa Perez, Mercedes Lotho and Celine Borromeo.

CIANI AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. "Umbrella Games," surrealist oil paintings by Rome-based Filipina artist Lina Llaguno Ciani, opens today and runs until March 5, at the Galleria Duemila (4/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City). Call Silvana Ancellotti-Diaz or Lhorie Galvez-Chan at 634-3261, 831-9990, 833-9815 or 633-6687.

MINIATURE PAINTINGS AT UST MUSEUM. Painting students of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design will exhibit their miniature paintings in the various media in "miniARTure" at the UST Museum. The student-artists include Joseph Acain, Willy Agpaoa, Jayz Chavez, Dandela Cortez, Harvey Escolano, Mary Grace Espena, Raizza Grandela, Reynald Laurel, Rommel Laurente, Yan Ying Liu, Meneer Marcelo, Jovenz Mayor, Lorenzo Mondejar, Jensen Moreno, Polly Ng, Meg Pulangco, Victoria Ronidel, Absie Sevilla, and Julienne Tansiongco. During the opening on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m., mix_media_inc. will launch its Artist Video Profile. The museum is open Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ENDAYA AT THE DRAWING ROOM. The quintessential woman is the subject of Imelda Cadipe Endaya's latest works on paper to be exhibited starting March 2 at the Drawing Room (Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City). Dubbed "Pagkababae (Being/Woman)," the exhibit features strawberry-colored depictions of breasts, oversized uteruses and ovaries which celebrate joy and sensuousness as healthy aspects of sexuality and self-fulfillment. Call 897-6990 or 897-7877.

HILARIO AT PINTO. Riel Hilario presents a new series of sculptures in "Divining Grace" at Gallery 2 of Pinto Art Gallery (Antipolo City, Rizal) until March 24. Incorporating motifs from various religious iconographies, Hilario appropriates spiritual narratives as allegories to personal stories of loss, repentance and healing. Call 697-1015.

LASA AT INSTITUTO CERVANTES. In the words of renowned Spanish writer Eduardo Chicharro, the late Hispano-Filipino caricaturist Luis León Lasa (1890-1986) was the only individual to "raise the personal caricature to the category of art." This exhibition of over 50 acrylics and temperas on paper from the collection of the Ateneo Art Gallery reintroduces the life and art of Lasa to the Filipino public. The exhibit opens tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the Salon de Actos, Instituto Cervantes (2515 corner Leon Guinto and Estrada Streets, Malate, Manila). Call 526-1482 to 85, or the Ateneo Art Gallery at 426-6001, local 4160.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT SKYLINE GALLERY. The Association for Philippines-China Understanding is holding "Contemporary Philippines and Chinese Paintings" until Feb. 28 at Skyline Gallery (8/F, Wynsum Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City). Participating artists include Jose Joya, Al Perez, Tam Austria, Cee Cadid, Rachy Cuna, Rudolf Gonzales, Danny Pangan, Godofredo Reyes, Willie Reyes, Julius Limpe, Ton Raymundo, Cris Velasco, Ernie Velasquez, Tess Gellada, Marivic Formoso, Susan Africa, Robert Balahadja, Paul Yap, Victor Ng, Wong Shui Loong and Hau Chock.

PLDT EXHIBIT. The 60 entries to the 2002-2003 PLDT-DPC Telephone Directory Cover 16th Visual Art National Competition are on exhibit until Feb. 28, at the Ayala Museum (G/F, Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Ave., Makati). Call 812-1191 to 95.

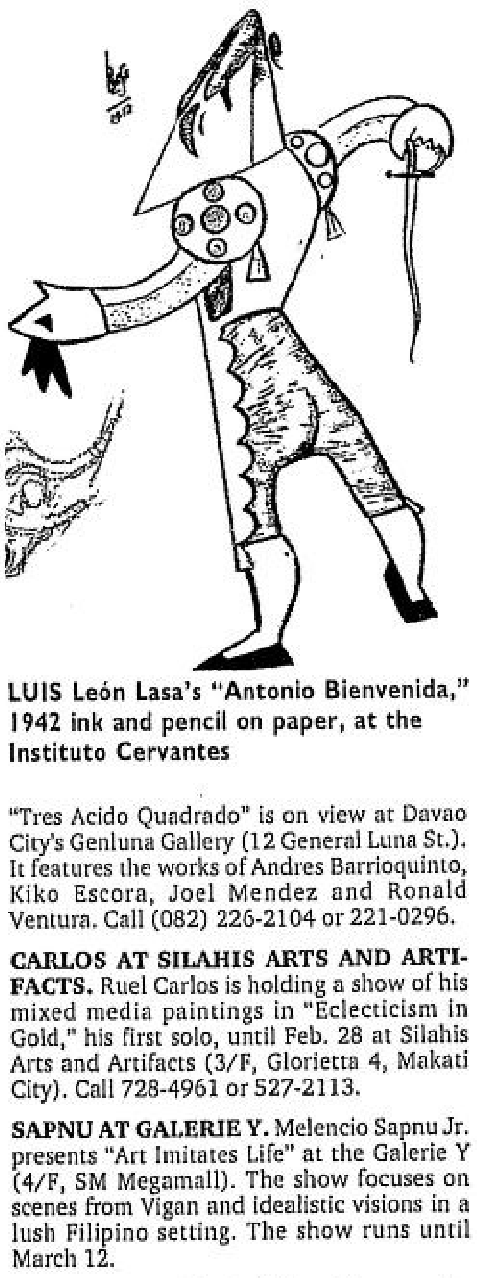
GROUP EXHIBIT AT GENLUNA GALLERY. "Tres Acido Quadrado" is on view at Davao City's Genluna Gallery (12 General Luna St.). It features the works of Andres Barrioquinto, Kiko Escora, Joel Mendez and Ronald Ventura. Call (082) 226-2104 or 221-0296.

CARLOS AT SILAHIS ARTS AND ARTIFACTS. Ruel Carlos is holding a show of his mixed media paintings in "Eclecticism in Gold," his first solo, until Feb. 28 at Silahis Arts and Artifacts (3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati City). Call 728-4961 or 527-2113.

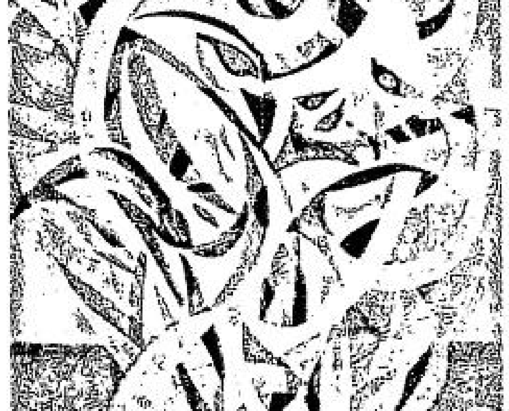
SAPNU AT GALERIE Y. Melencio Sapnu Jr. presents "Art Imitates Life" at the Galerie Y (4/F, SM Megamall). The show focuses on scenes from Vigan and idealistic visions in a lush Filipino setting. The show runs until March 12.

WORKSHOP. The Positivism Summer Art Workshop conducted by positivism exponent and painter E.R. Tagle and his artist-friends is now accepting applicants who wish to learn the basic of drawings and paintings. Workshop fee is P5,000 inclusive of art materials. Call Ana or Mario at 816-0904 or 0917-9726223.

AS PART of the celebration of the 54th anniversary of the foundation of University of Nueva Caceres in Naga, Bicolano artist Pancho Piano is holding a painting exhibit dubbed "Guhit ng Panahon," until Feb. 28. The exhibit features 12 works and 2 murals depicting the history of the school. At the opening were Archbishop Yllana, papal nuncio to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (above), Cora Soltes of San Diego, California, Lilibeth Guysako, Councilor Nene de Asis and Amelita Saenz of the Naga City Arts Council.



LUIS León Lasa's "Antonio Bienvenida," 1942 ink and pencil on paper, at the Instituto Cervantes

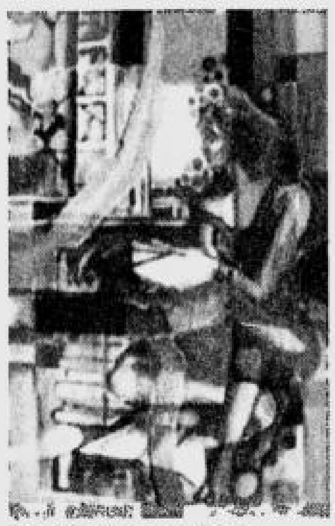


"SANCTUARY" by Romeo E. Gutierrez is among the works exhibited by College of Holy Spirit fine arts faculty at Gallery 101.

Gigi Javier Alfonso explores the multifarious woman

THE ARTIST, educator and critic at work

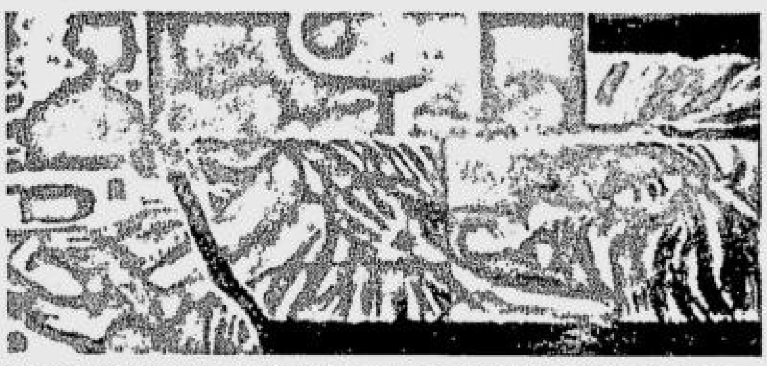
IN HER newest solo show at the UP Vargas Museum, "Babae sa Tag-ulan at Tag-araw," Gigi Javier Alfonso draws our attention to the many roles women assume in daily life. Her title refers to their many practices that recognize no bounds. No matter the specialization that new technologies demand, the artist believes women have more work as their social relationships expand: Mother, homemaker, partner, worker, professional and friend. Rain or shine, they make themselves available as nurturer, caregiver and counselor. As such, the artist chooses to paint women from all walks of life and place them in ordinary settings.



WOMAN as mother, partner and nurturer

Javier Alfonso has also assumed many social roles. She has experienced the multiple tasks that interactions require—as academic and administrator at the UP Diliman, for instance. This is one of the reasons she has developed a method of painting that translates the feelings and thinking that women like her go through every day.

She has abandoned making preliminary drawings in favor of a more spontaneous technique. Applying thin layers of acrylic on unprimed canvas, she allows the texture of that ground to come through. She uses predominantly earth colors to acknowledge women's affinity with life-sustaining art forms such as pottery. Finally, she attaches other fabrics and flat objects to complete the seams on her canvas.



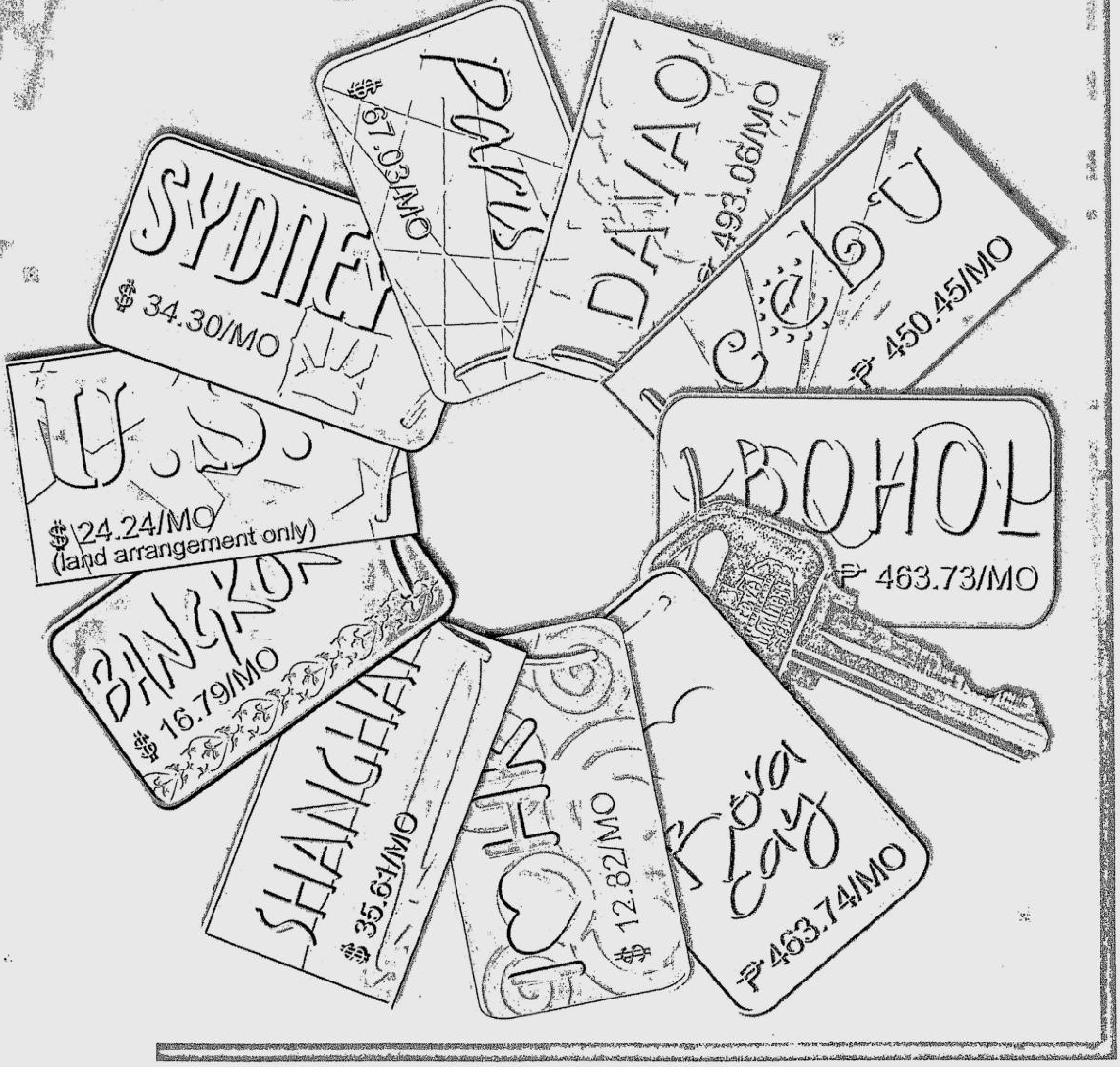
IN MIXED media, artist shows women at different interactions.

Having been involved in various media like film and video, Javier Alfonso sees her painting as a means of framing an image she witnesses in the course of the day. She pushes the limits of painting's two-dimensionality by creating a narrative, just like many women who tell their life stories through art forms, conveying their material culture. It is the idea of the moment that usually inspires a whole story. It rouses her to paint women's lives with a resonance that no words can match.

On Women's Day on March 8, Javier Alfonso will discuss her work as a woman artist in "Ang Mundo ng Isang Babae." This will include a demonstration of her painting techniques and processes.

The UP Vargas Museum is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call Linda Pabico at (02) 928-1927 or 920-5301 (local 7407).

BPI Card



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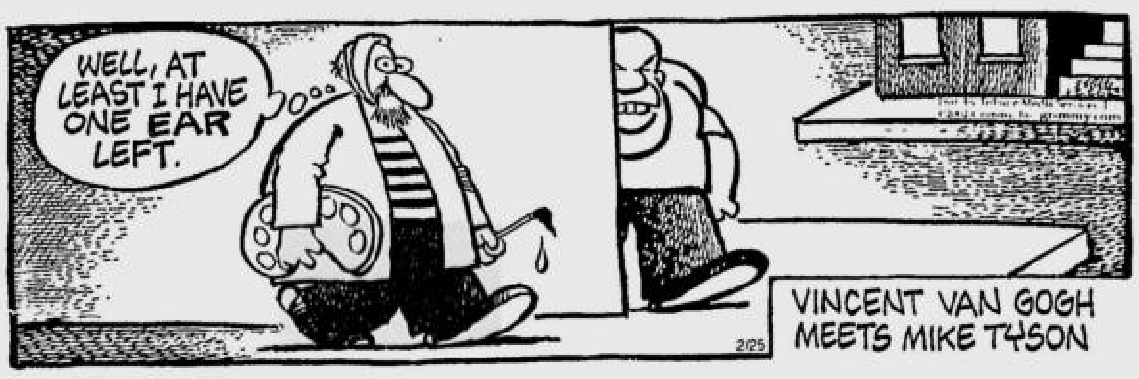
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0618. Series of 2002.

ComicRelief

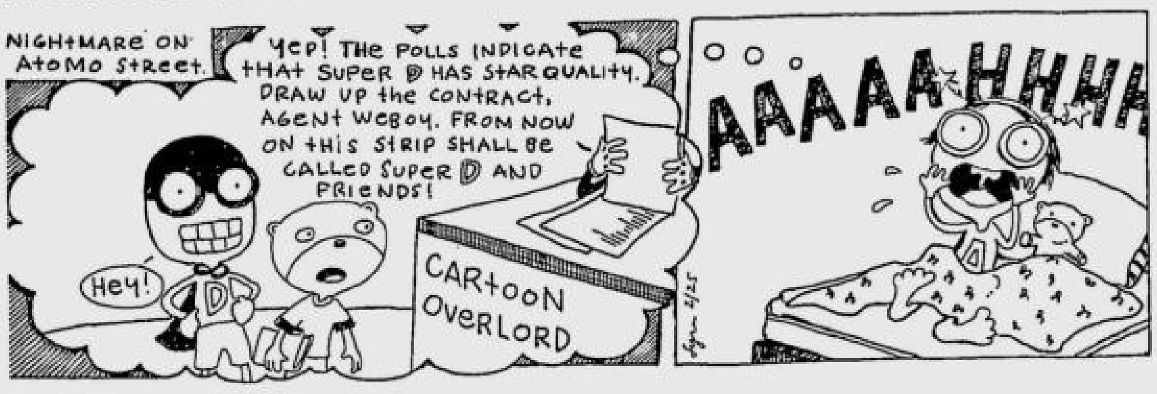
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE ONE EAR LEFT.
VINCENT VAN GOGH MEETS MIKE TYSON
2/25

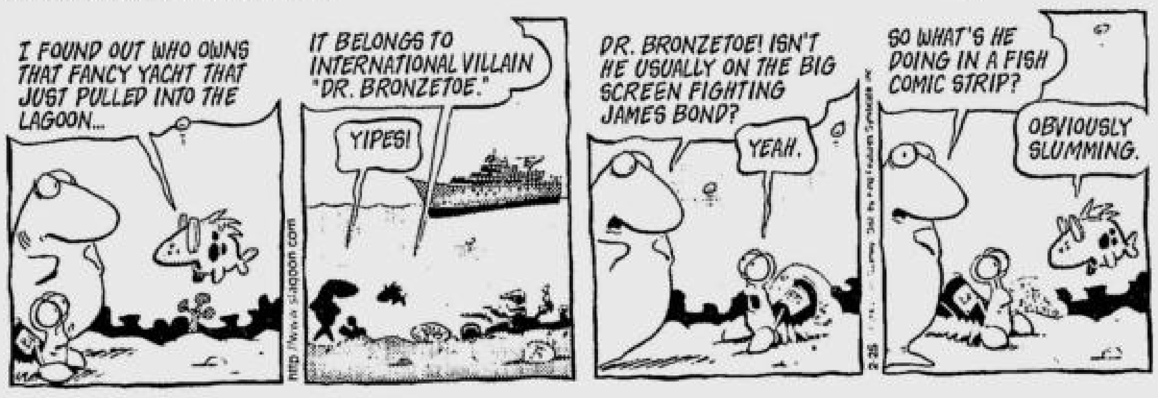
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


NIGHTMARE ON ATOMO STREET.
YEP! THE POLLS INDICATE THAT SUPER D HAS STAR QUALITY. DRAW UP THE CONTRACT, AGENT WEBOY. FROM NOW ON THIS STRIP SHALL BE CALLED SUPER D AND FRIENDS!
HEY!
CARTOON OVERLORD
AAAAAHHHH

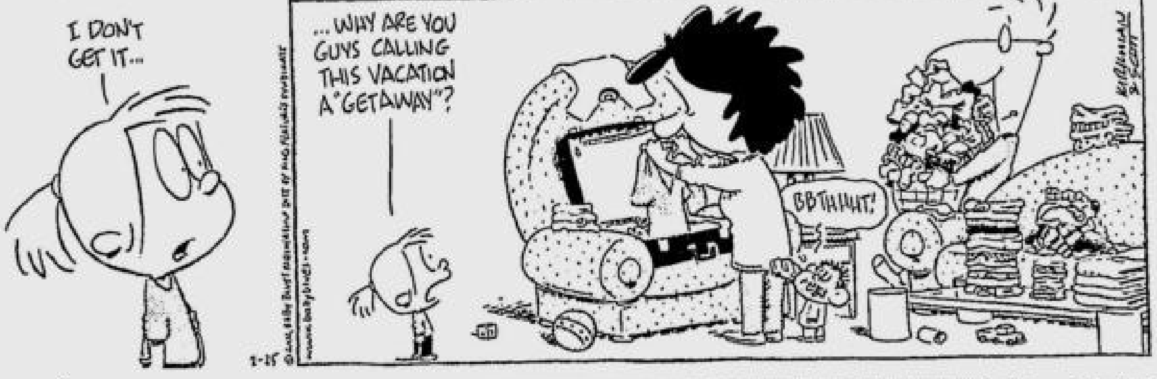
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I FOUND OUT WHO OWNS THAT FANCY YACHT THAT JUST PULLED INTO THE LAGOON...
IT BELONGS TO INTERNATIONAL VILLAIN "DR. BRONZETOE."
YIPES!
DR. BRONZETOE! ISN'T HE USUALLY ON THE BIG SCREEN FIGHTING JAMES BOND?
YEAH.
SO WHAT'S HE DOING IN A FISH COMIC STRIP?
OBVIOUSLY SLUMMING.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I DON'T GET IT...
...WHY ARE YOU GUYS CALLING THIS VACATION A "GETAWAY"?
BBTHHHT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
2-25

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Harrison, Sally Jessy Raphael, Sean Astin, Justin Jeffre

Happy Birthday: You will be creative in your approach to work this year. You will come into secret information that will make a difference to your plans, that will influence your future and that will help you get ahead with financial investments. You'll likely inherit property or possessions. Your numbers are 13, 16, 28, 33, 35, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be in a creative mood today. Being aggressive in your actions will result in getting what you want, when you want it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful what you wish for. You may not get the response expected if you are trying to coerce family members to do what you want. Stay calm and bide your time for now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll feel like stepping into the limelight. Your thoughts will hold the attention of those you speak with. Take the initiative .

CANCER (June 21-July 22):. The more time spent dealing with your financial plan for the future, the better you'll do. Don't overreact just because you don't have as much in the bank as you would like.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to think before you take action. Your emotions will be a little close to the surface and that could spell trouble.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have to dig deep in order to find out exactly what's going on today. If someone isn't giving you the information you need, don't hesitate to go above his or her head.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have a lot on your mind. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction. Your desire to learn will probably lead you to your local library.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful not to let your emotions take over today. You could easily give the wrong impression. Focus on listening, learning and observing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be in the mood to take a trip. Visit your travel agent or look through your most recent travel magazine. Dreaming about distant lands will be almost as enjoyable as traveling to these places.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your mind will be on money matters. Don't hesitate to make changes to your personal investments. Luck is with you today especially where real estate, winnings and taking care of other people's money are concerned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your versatile nature and your need to experience all sorts of unusual activities may lead to emotional banter with people you are close to. Explain your actions instead of being secretive and you won't have as much to contend with.

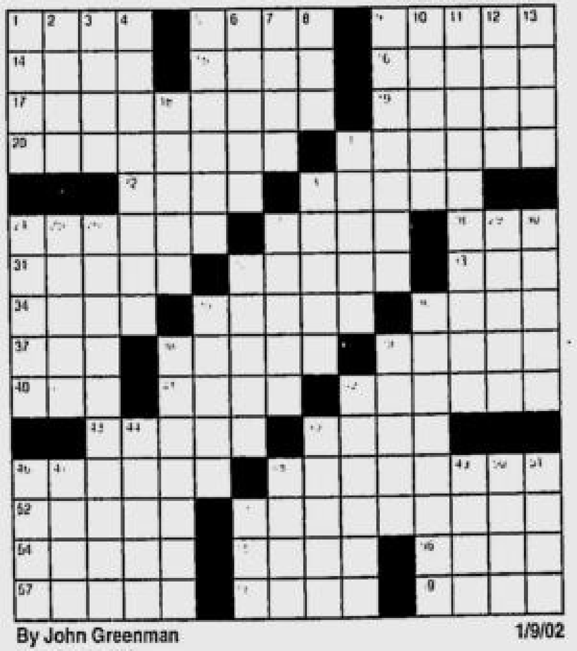
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on your future direction. You can make career changes if you are bored with your present work situation. This is a great time to go for an interview or put some effort into self-improvement.

Birthday Baby: You express yourself dramatically. You have great insight into what is hot and what is not. You aren't likely to tolerate anyone curtailing your freedom. You need to be allowed to follow the small voice within you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Wide separation
5 Plant starter
9 Cassettes
14 Seed coat
15 Type of duck?
16 Muse of poetry
17 Twenty cents?
19 City near Canton
20 With joy
21 Javanese and Japanese
22 Beech or birch
23 Hurl
24 Quaking trees
27 Principal
28 Computer acronym
31 Scorches
32 Existence
33 Reverence
34 Old sailors
35 "The Power of Positive Thinking" writer
36 Period of time
37 Period of time
38 Paint layers
39 Motilal or Jawaharlal
40 Indistinct
41 Burden
42 Intuits
43 White heron
45 Miguel's coin
46 Broadens
48 Deli favorite
52 Face the day
53 Web and camp?
54 Authoritative statements
55 Bit of news
56 Travel charge
57 Satisfactory symbols
58 "Pretty Woman" man
59 Altar area



By John Greenman
New York, NY

1/9/02

DOWN
1 Stand open
2 Caspian feeder
3 Milanese monetary unit
4 Gratifies vanity
5 Shifts out of place
6 First ship on the moon
7 TV award
8 Some French
9 Mocking playfully
10 "Catch-22" star Alan
11 Plot and chart?
12 Bond's alma mater
13 Miller play, "All My __"
18 Bruce and Laura
21 Type of skirt
23 Jibs
24 Played a part
25 Puppeteer Lewis
26 Hawkeye and Trapper?
27 Cold cuts
29 Cognizant
30 Program choices
32 Lulu
35 Cornmeal dishes
36 Mexican miss
38 Parts of eyes
39 Hemlock homes
42 Opening word
44 "The Last Remake of Beau __"
45 Kitchen knife
46 Walk in water
47 Novelist Murdoch
48 Head
49 Perched on
50 Blanc and Blount
51 Seagirt land
53 Slovenly person

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	E	B	I	■	B	I	T	E	S	■	S	N	A	P
A	L	E	C	■	L	O	R	R	E	■	C	U	B	A
M	A	L	E	C	A	T	O	R	T	U	R	K	E	Y
P	I	A	C	E	M	A	T	■	■	F	E	F	I	S
■	■	■	R	A	E	■	■	S	T	O	A	■	■	■
R	U	S	E	■	R	A	T	I	O	■	M	U	F	F
U	N	C	A	P	■	B	E	E	F	Y	■	S	L	R
S	H	A	M	U	S	O	R	G	U	M	S	H	O	E
S	I	R	■	G	L	A	R	E	■	A	L	E	U	T
O	P	E	C	■	O	R	A	L	S	■	O	R	T	S
■	■	■	H	E	E	D	■	■	A	T	V	■	■	■
S	H	E	E	R	■	■	O	U	T	R	E	A	C	H
R	E	P	E	A	T	E	D	L	Y	A	N	N	O	Y
T	E	E	S	■	S	P	E	A	R	■	L	O	O	P
A	L	E	E	■	E	A	R	N	S	■	Y	A	L	E

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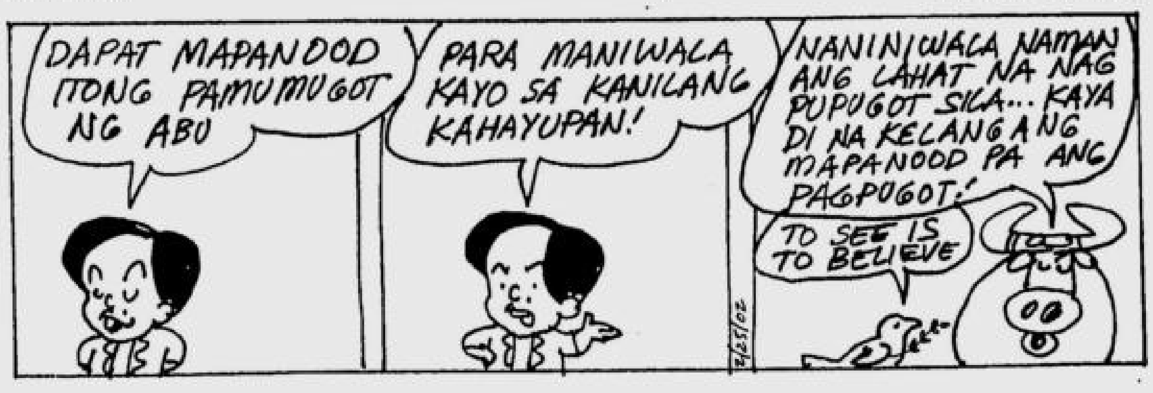
1/9/02

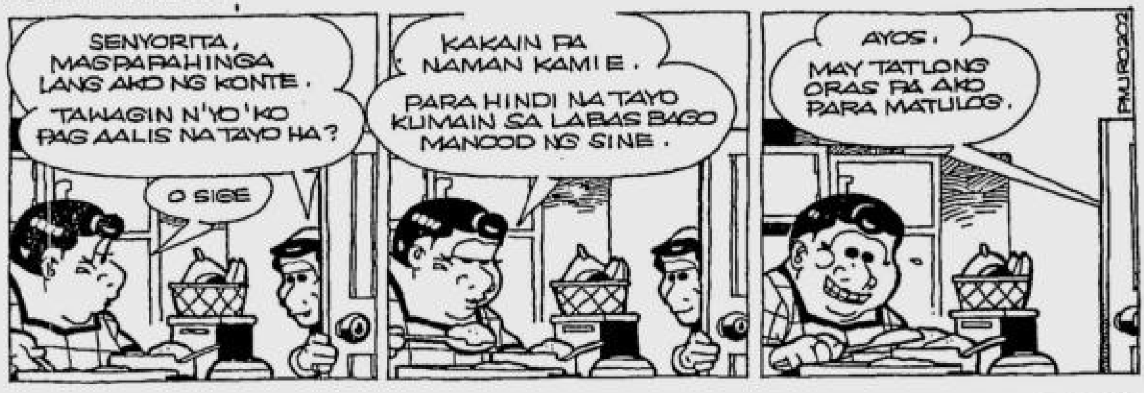
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT MAPANOOD ITONG PAMUMUGOT NG ABU
PARA MANIWALA KAYO SA KANILANG KAHAYUPAN!
NANINIWALA NAMAN ANG LAHAT NA NAG PUPUGOT SILA... KAYA DI NA KELANGANG MAPANOOD PA ANG PAGPUGOT!
TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE
2/25/02

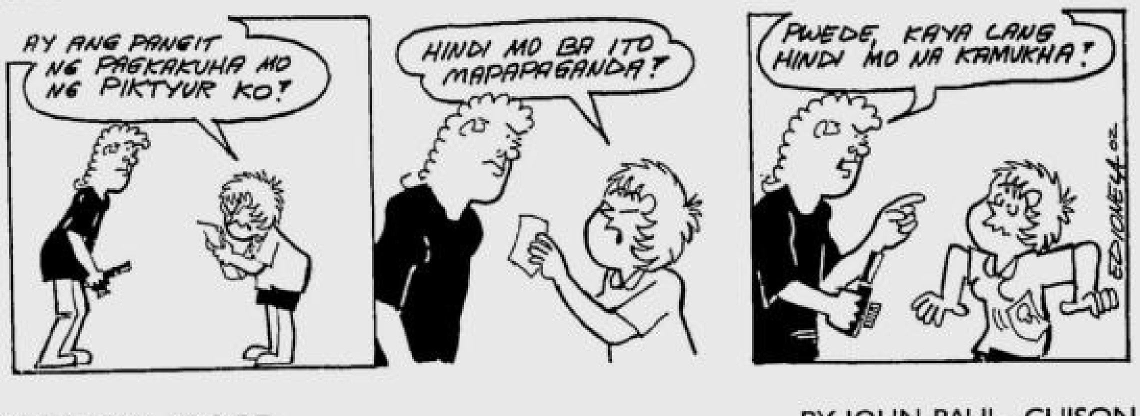
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SENYORITA, MAGPAPAHINGA LANG AKO NG KONTE.
TAWAGIN N'YO 'KO PAG AALIS NA TAYO HA?
O SIGE
KAKAIN PA NAMAN KAMI E.
PARA HINDI NA TAYO KUMAIN SA LABAS BAGO MANOOD NG SINE.
AYOS.
MAY TATLONG ORAS PA AKO PARA MATULOG.
PMJR0202

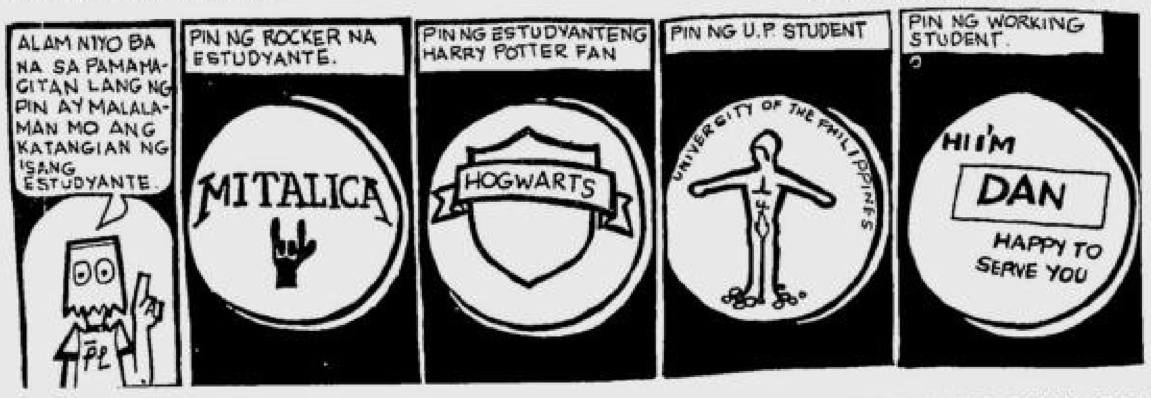
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AY ANG PANGIT NG PAGKAKUHA MO NG PIKTYUR KO!
HINDI MO BA ITO MAPAPAGANDA?
PWEDE, KAYA LANG HINDI MO NA KAMUKHA!
EDIONELA 02

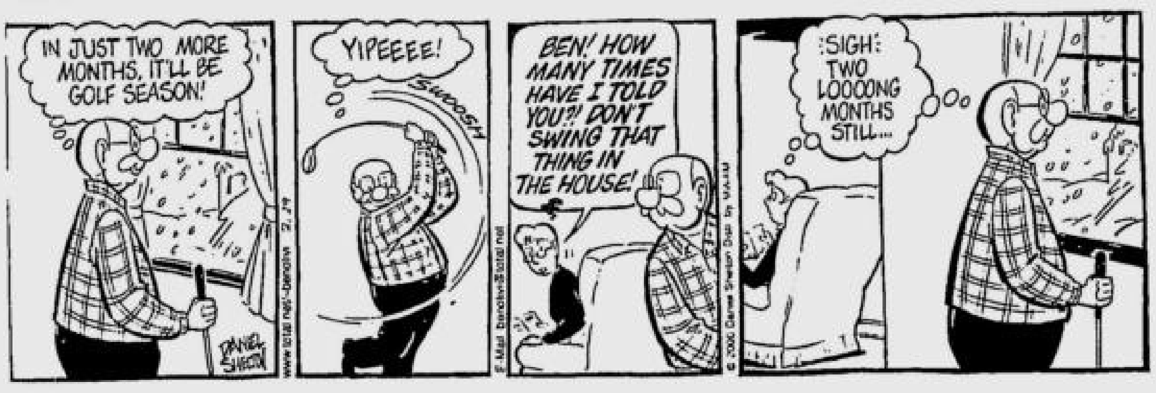
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ALAM NIYO BA NA SA PAMAMAGITAN LANG NG PIN AY MALALAMAN MO ANG KATANGIAN NG ISANG ESTUDYANTE.
PIN NG ROCKER NA ESTUDYANTE.
MITALICA
PIN NG ESTUDYANTENG HARRY POTTER FAN
HOGWARTS
PIN NG U.P. STUDENT
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
PIN NG WORKING STUDENT.
HI! I'M
DAN
HAPPY TO SERVE YOU

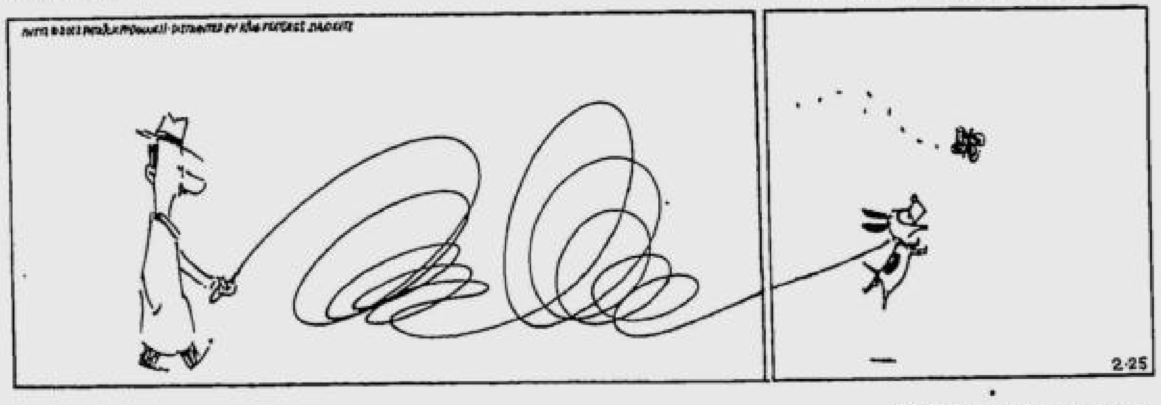
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IN JUST TWO MORE MONTHS, IT'LL BE GOLF SEASON!
YIPEEEE!
SWOOSH
BEN! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?! DON'T SWING THAT THING IN THE HOUSE!
:SIGH: TWO LOOOONG MONTHS STILL...
DANIEL SHELTON

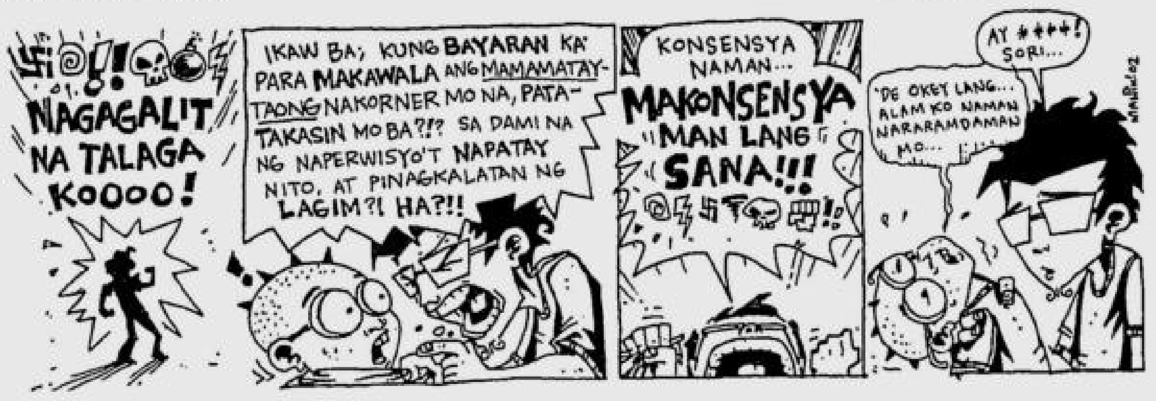
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



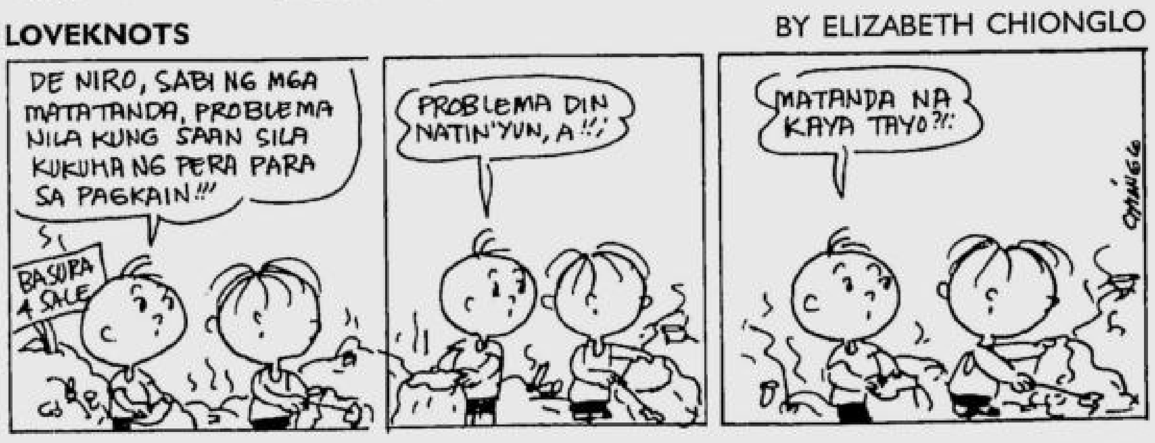
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


NAGAGALIT NA TALAGA KOOOO!
IKAW BA, KUNG BAYARAN KA PARA MAKAWALA ANG MAMAMATAY-TAONG NAKORNER MO NA, PATATAKASIN MO BA?!? SA DAMI NA NG NAPERWISYO'T NAPATAY NITO, AT PINAGKALATAN NG LAGIM?! HA?!!
KONSENSYA NAMAN...
MAKONSENSYA MAN LANG SANA!!!
AY ****! SORI...
'DE OKEY LANG... ALAM KO NAMAN NARARAMDAMAN MO...

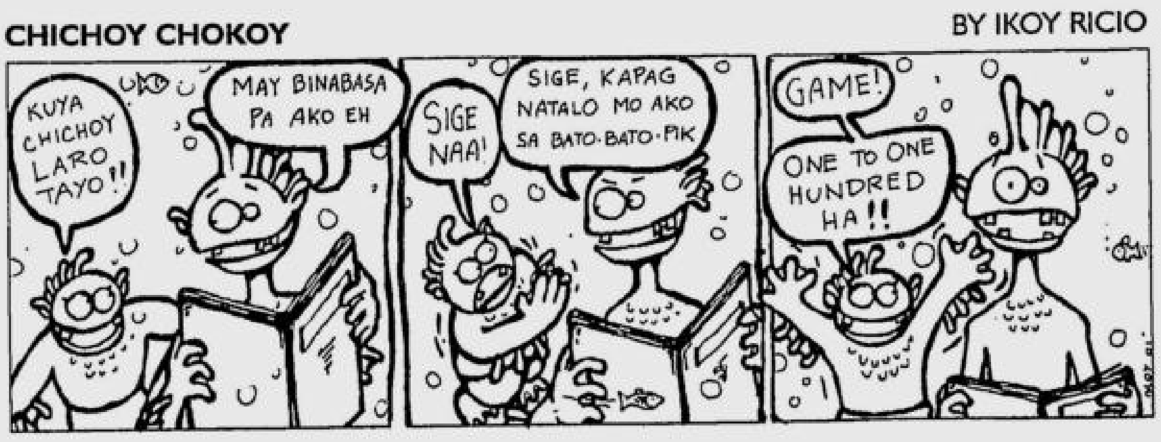
LOVEKNOTS

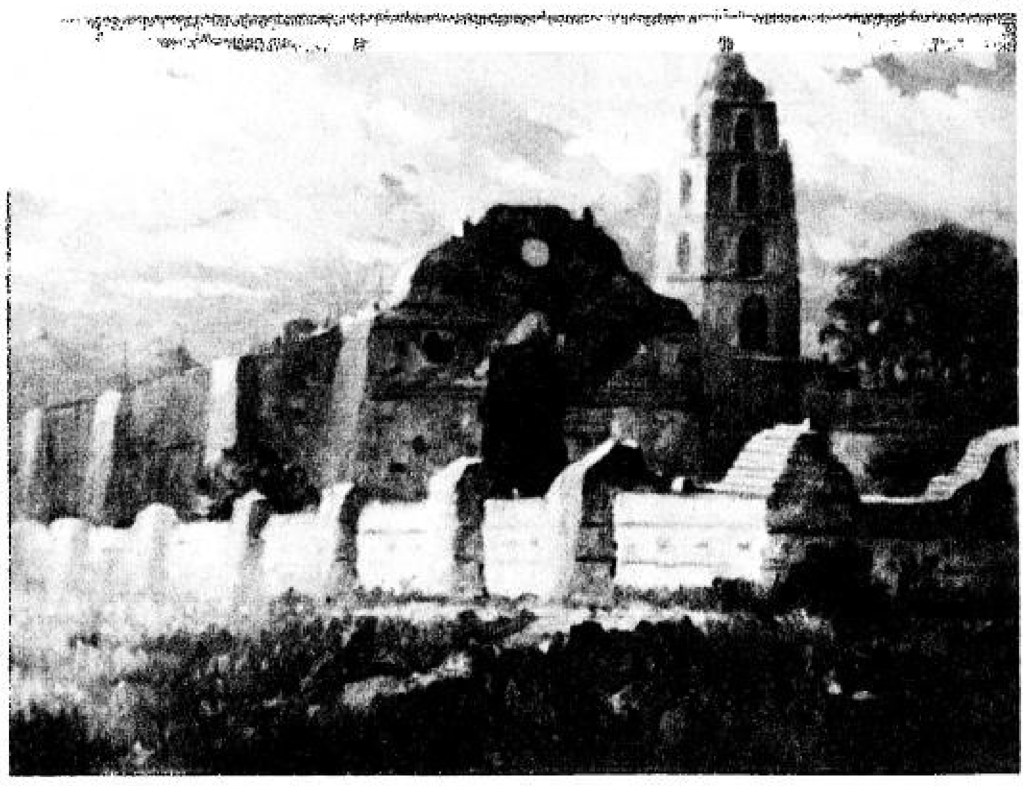
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, SABI NG MGA MATATANDA, PROBLEMA NILA KUNG SAAN SILA KUKUHA NG PERA PARA SA PAGKAIN!!!
BASURA 4 SALE
PROBLEMA DIN NATIN 'YUN, A!!
MATANDA NA KAYA TAYO?!
CHIONGLO

CHICHOY CHOKOY

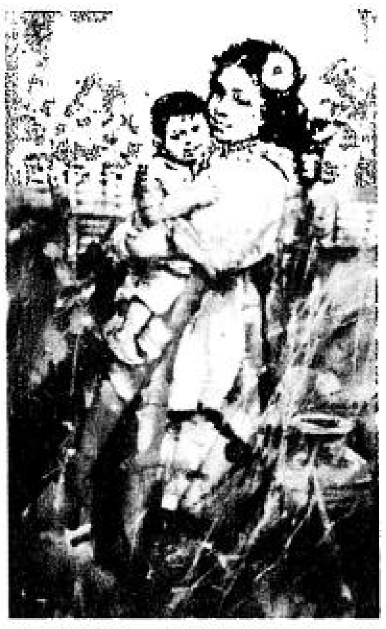
BY IKOY RICIO


KUYA CHICHOY LARO TAYO!!
MAY BINABASA PA AKO EH
SIGE NAA!
SIGE, KAPAG NATALO MO AKO SA BATO-BATO-PIK
GAME!
ONE TO ONE HUNDRED HA!!



"RUINS of Santiago Isabela" by Elmer Gernale

Gernale, Cacnio, Larosa and Martinez in 'Likha'



"MOTHER and Child" by Angel Cacnio

PROLIFIC watercolorist Elmer Gernale will be featured in an art exhibit titled "Likha," organized by the Intellectual Property Foundation of the Phils., a nonprofit organization advocating the protection of intellectual property rights.

Gernale joins art masters Angel Cacnio, Michael Cacnio, Vic Larosa and Jun Martinez in the exhibit on Feb. 26-27 at The Gallery, The Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

Gernale is known for his colorful works on earthenware jars and antique plates. His more notable works include mural paintings at the lobby of the Tarlac Provincial Capitol Building and at the conference hall of the Embassy of Nauru in the Pacific Star Building, Makati. He was also one of the artists who designed and set up the renowned Ayala Museum of dioramas.

Because of his distinct expertise in watercolor art, Gernale has been a delegate to several art exhibitions abroad. He was Philippine representative to the Visual Arts Festival in the People's Republic of China, First Filipino Visual Arts Festival in California and 6th Asian Biennale in Bangladesh.

Since Gernale has enjoyed several recognitions from different art associations abroad, he has been included in the who's who in International Art published in Lausanne, Switzerland. His international works include the Singapore Historical Dioramas for the National Museum of Singapore. He also joined a group exhibit in Germany titled "World of Watercolors" in which his paintings on "Underwatercolors Series" were highly admired by European art enthusiasts.

Gernale is a member of the board of authenticators of the National Museum and the Tuesday Group. He is a native of Bulan, Sorsogon and took up fine arts at the University of Sto. Tomas.

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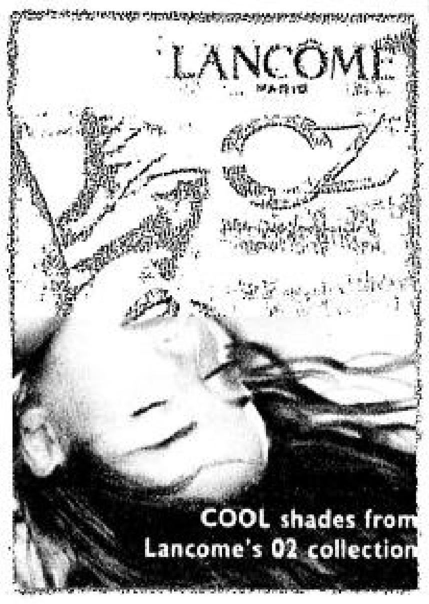

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Not to be outdone, the second week was all about "Sexy Summer Hair". L'Oreal Professional partnered with the country's top hair colour experts from new salons "H" and Bench's "Fix" offering free styling and products for all who availed of color consultations and service. For those who prefer home hair coloration, the country's top brands L'Oreal Paris and Garnier were also out in force. L'Oreal Studio Line's easy-to-do hair styling trends and Kerastase expert hair care advice guaranteed "healthy happy hair for all".

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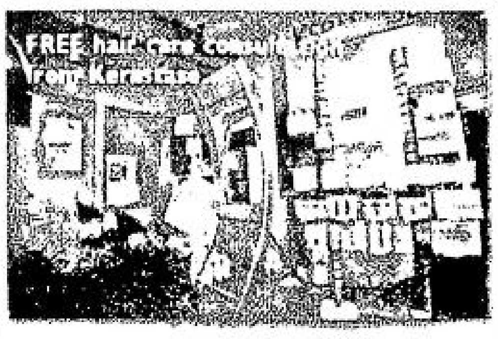

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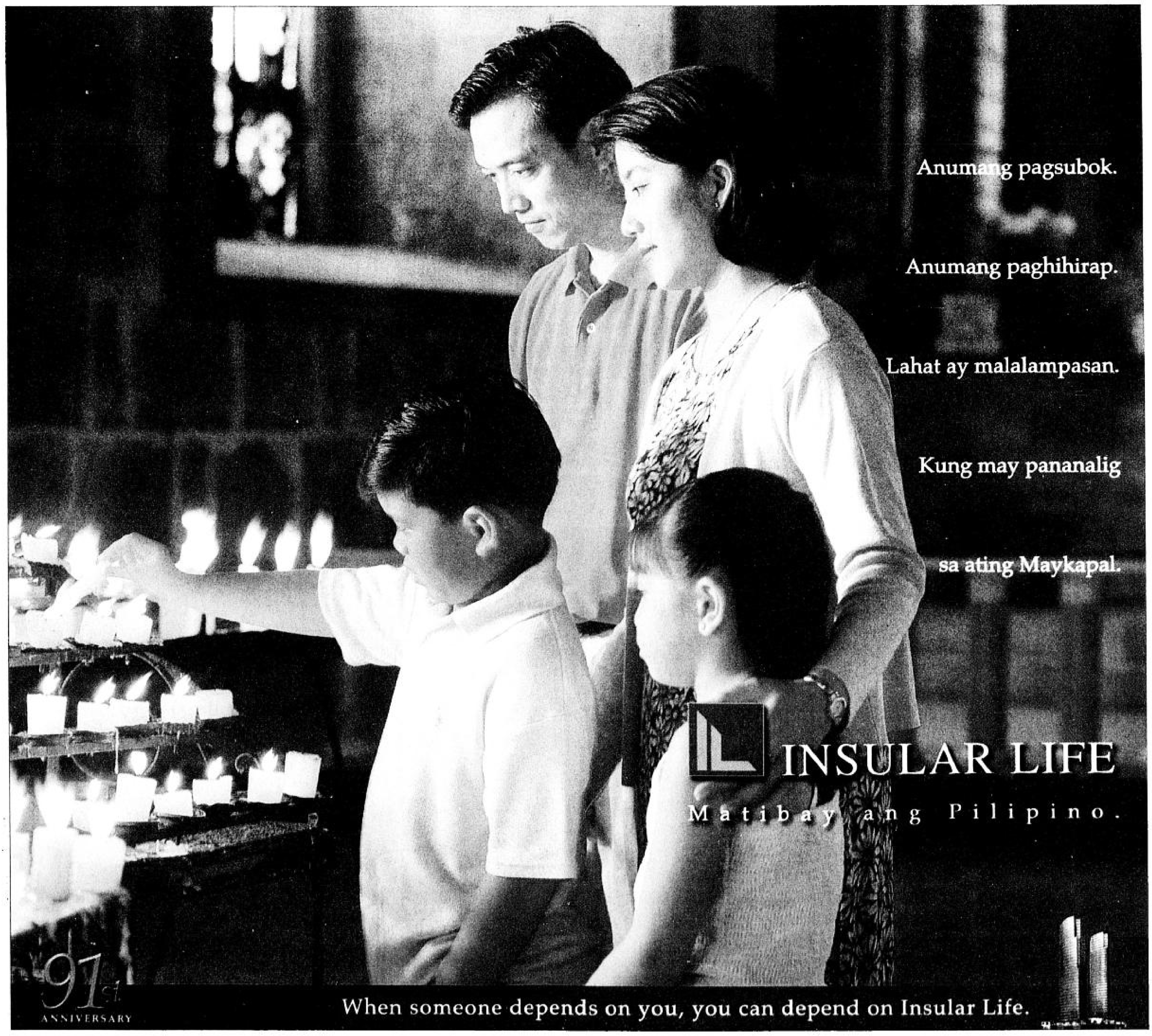
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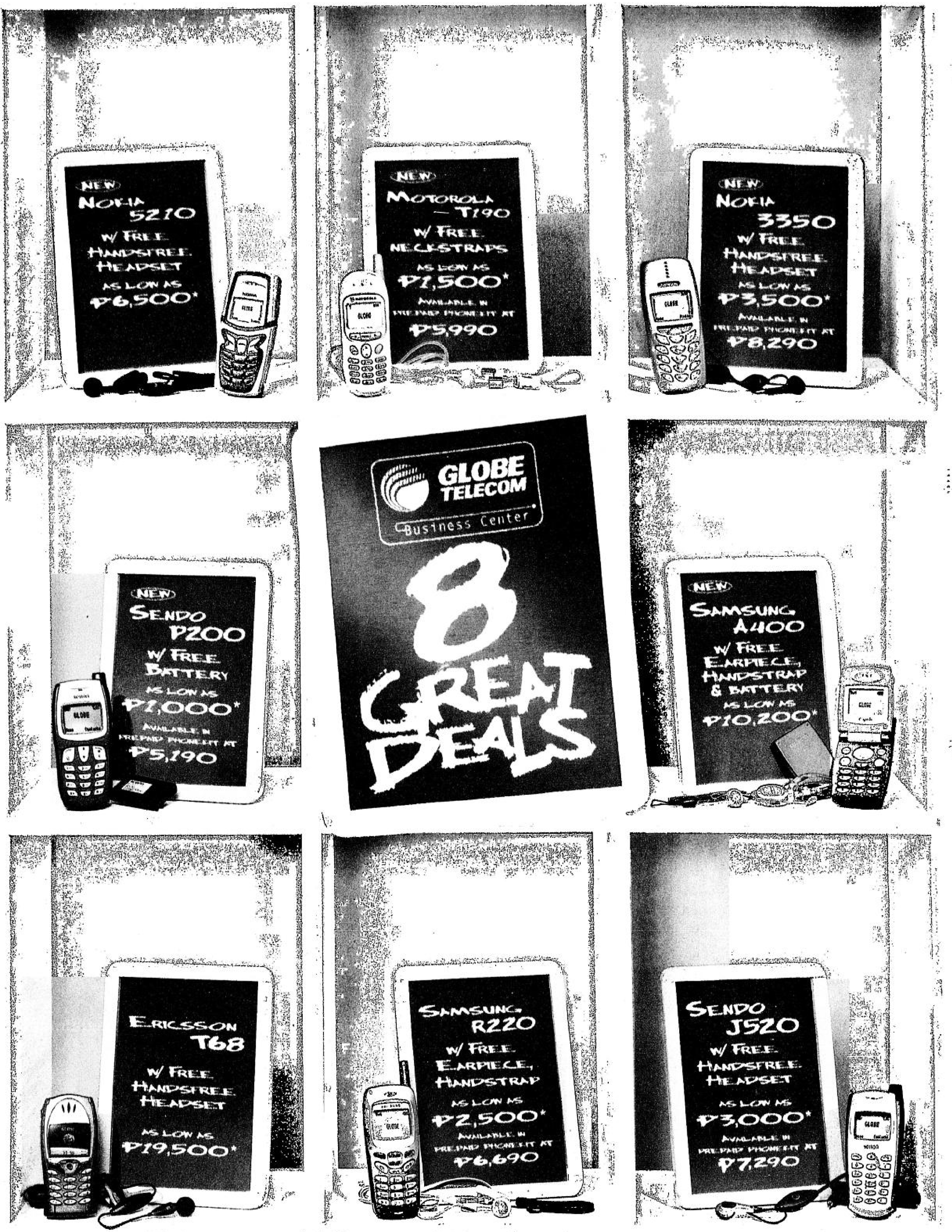
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LIFESTYLE

Arts/Design

"SISTERS" IN ARMS. Anton Juan and Behn Cervantes

'Portrait' as sisters act

Nick Joaquin's famous play gets a queer reinvention

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHAT happens when the two leading female characters in a classic Filipino play metamorphose into men? Nothing much, insisted actor-director Anton Juan, who has given Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" a new twist by casting himself and good friend Behn Cervantes in the roles of the two spinster sisters Paula and Candida. This time, of course, Juan and Cervantes will be playing Pablito and Candido, respectively.

"After we've transformed the personae," said Juan, during a break in rehearsals at the University of the Philippines' College of Arts and Letters, "it was as if Joaquin had written the play as such. You'd never think of the two roles as female."

Produced by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the World Theatre Project at Samba-Likhaan, "Portrait" caps off the current arts month spearheaded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. It will run Feb. 28 to March 10 at the CCP Little Theater.

The story set in prewar Manila still revolves around the same set of principal characters: an ailing, forgotten artist and his two aging sons who cope with the rigors of caring for him. Now living in dire straits, the family is left with nothing but a crumbling, old house, a glorious past and their father's priceless painting to keep them going. The same artwork later becomes a source of conflict between them and their greedy siblings. The plot starts to thicken soon after the two accept a male boarder named Tony Javier to help make ends meet.

More appropriate

"When you consider that the focus of the play is a portrait of Aeneas carrying his father on his back," said Cervantes, "it seems more appropriate to have two men play the roles."

"Nick probably meant them as men," added Juan, "except in our society it's the woman who traditionally takes care of the ailing father." But the play has undergone more

PORTRAIT/ p.E2

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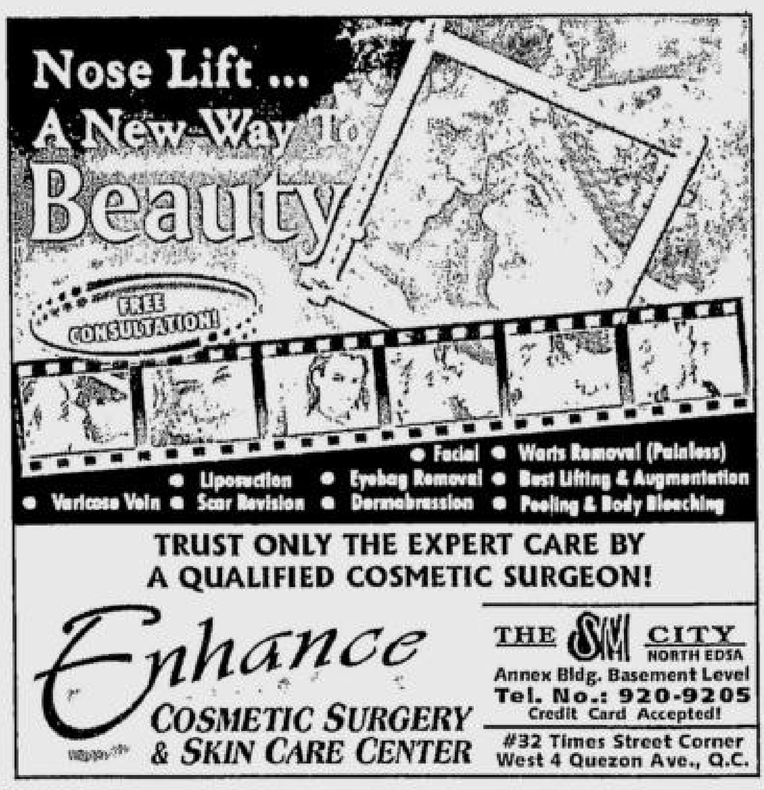

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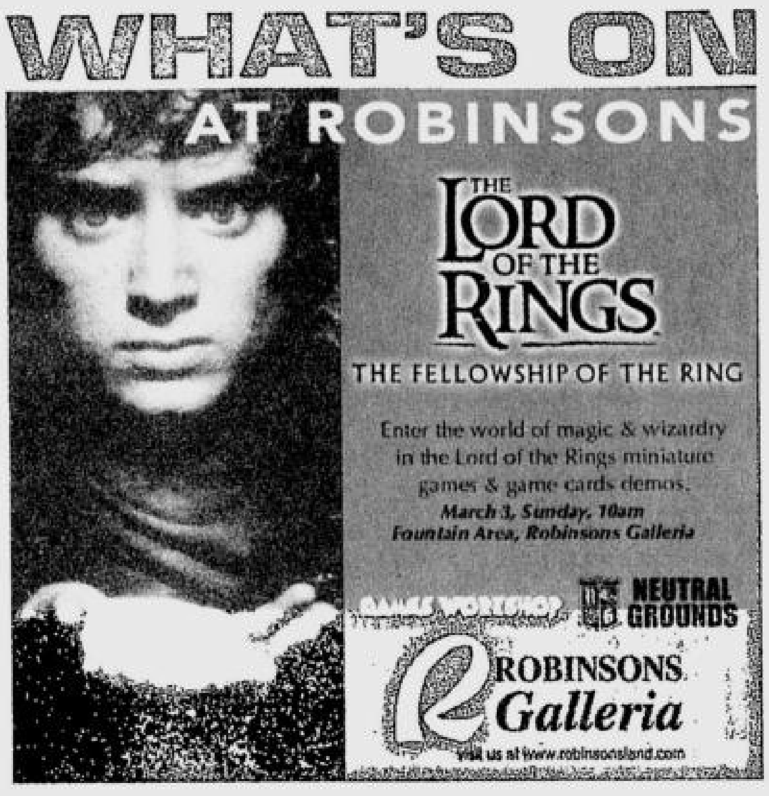

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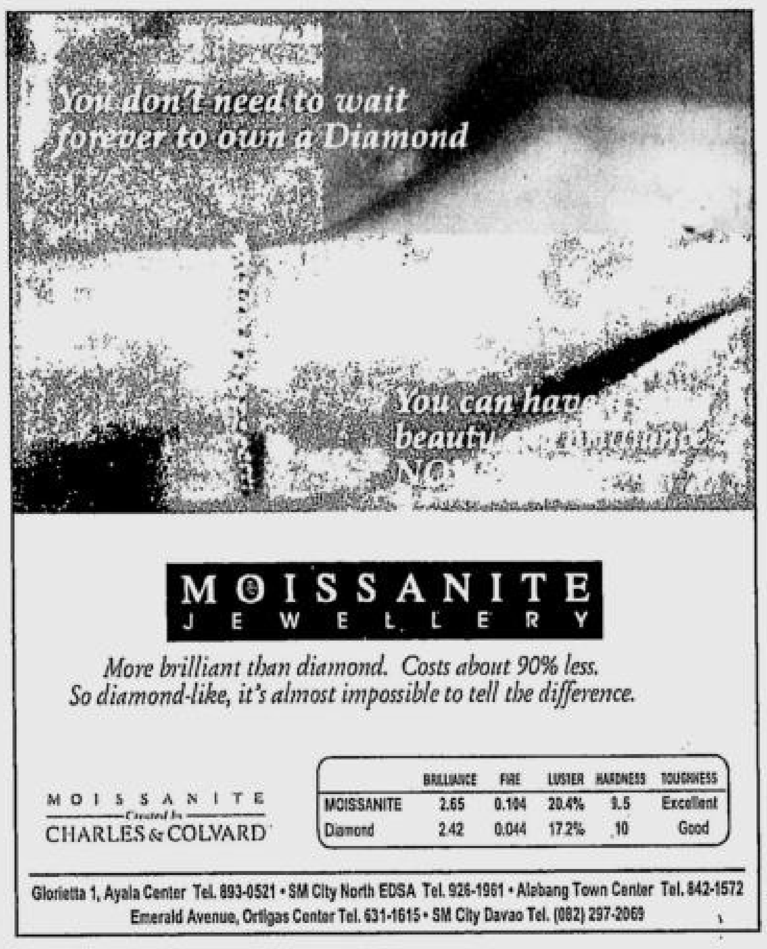

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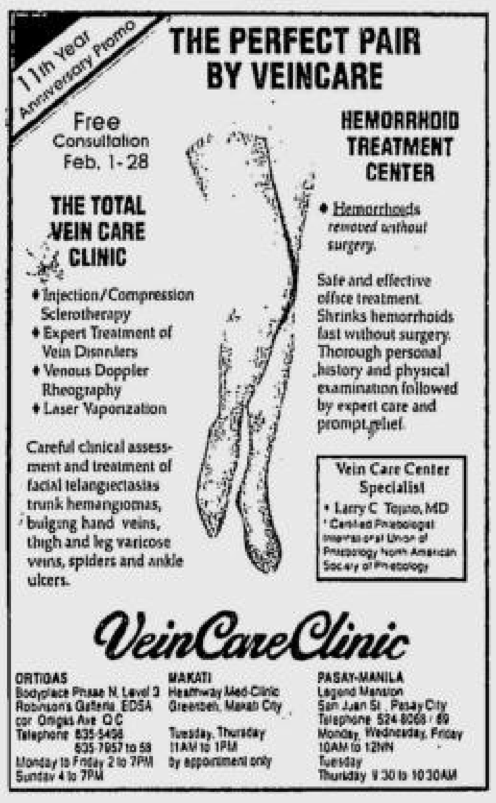

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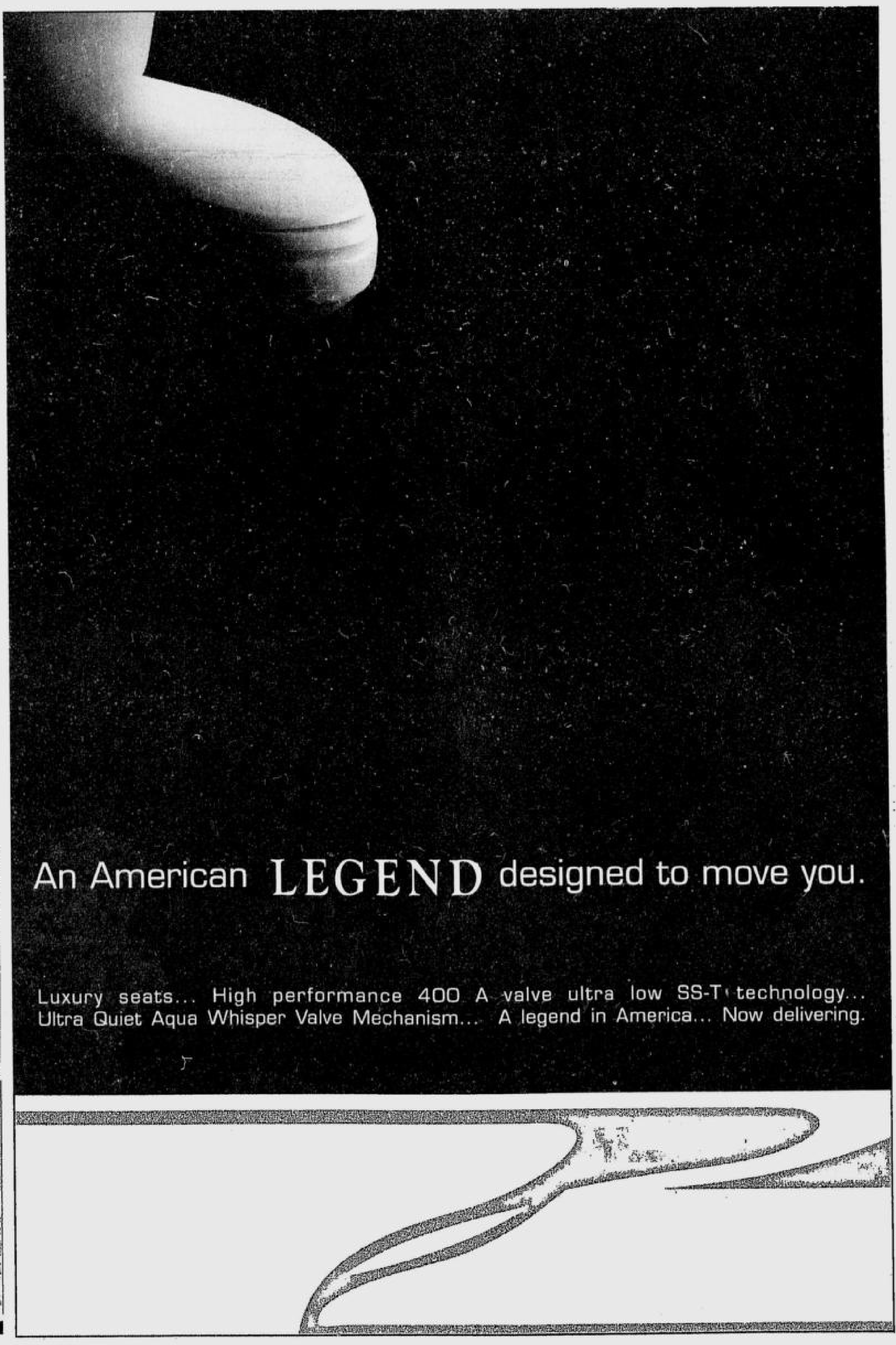

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SCENT OF A MAN. Tony Javier (Marco Sison) sets the brothers' hearts thumping.

'Portrait' as sisters act

From page E1

than a mere change in pronouns. Gone are allusions to princes and enchanted castles. Juan and Cervantes have had to do away with certain lines to make their characters sound more believable.

Although the play will be oozing with homosexual undertones, the two have chosen to tackle their respective characters in a more repressed manner typical of homosexuals of the time. Of course, the National Artist has given his blessings to this nth restaging of his work.

"When we've finally agreed that two leads will be played by men," said Cervantes, "I insisted that we get Nick Joaquin's permission first. All that Nick asked of Anton was not to turn the production into a farce."

That means no nude and kissing scenes. No one gets to fondle and be fondled either. "It's bad enough that we're going to get the audience giddy and nervous at the site of a man being seduced by another man," added Cervantes. "The two brothers are closet queens, not screaming faggots."

The novelty of casting two men in roles originally meant for women will invariably stir audience's interest. Juan and Cervantes, however, insist that there's more to the play than the seduction scene.

"More than anything else," said Juan, "it's a testimony of artists carrying predecessor artists on their backs. A man, woman, or even a goat goes through a fall, an experience and a salvation. It just so happened that this time the characters are gays."

Tribute

The play is also Juan's tribute to the Filipino father, a hapless figure who has gotten more than his share of flak. "Every time I rehearse," said Juan, as he waxes sentimental, "gentle childhood memories come back to me. The songs my father used to sing, his strong yet gentle personality.

"Popular culture has bashed the Filipino father too often," he added, "but I've met a lot of men who are good fathers and principled individuals. I'm also doing this as a homage to all my mentors who've influenced me in my life."

Cervantes has no illusions of the play ever setting trends or breaking new grounds. At this day and age, he said, there's no more wall to break or shock jaded audiences with as far as homosexuality is concerned.

"People have been much more advanced than we've given them credit for. I just hope the play has enough juice left to keep them interested. Likewise, I hope it helps young people out there who are maybe undergoing confusion to see where their error may lie or the waste of time involved in suffering unnecessarily."

Not that Cervantes had to go through the same experience. "I don't think I went through so much repression as uncertainty. You were raised thinking homosexuality is wrong, and then all of a sudden, *aba*, something in your heart tells you it's right.

"I'd rather not reveal my role models, but definitely I've culled certain facets of my character from people whom I think were suffering closet queens."

Come opening night, however, all eyes will likely be focused on the two brothers as they ward off their wily seducer's advances. One of the play's highlights is the seduction scene, wherein Tony seduces Paula, or in this case Pablito, who eventually succumbs and runs away with him. Raymond Bagatsing and Marco Sison alternate as Tony.

Two Tonys

Admittedly, a play's ability to bring in a bigger crowd hinges greatly on the presence of popular actors. Scheduling problems aside, two talented but totally different performers were tapped to play Tony to cater to the lead actors' distinct requirements.

"Anton wanted Raymond," said Cervantes. "I wanted someone who's charming and cute so I pushed for Marco. I think he's the more believable Tony who'd be able to easily fool two closet queens."

"I find Raymond a bull," Juan reasoned, "while Behn finds Marco a lamb—an unlikely wolf inside the house. I see in Raymond the right mix of sexuality and gentleness required of the character."

The public, of course, is also eager to witness acting fireworks between two legendary stage actors with equally legendary tempers. Who will come out the more believable, more sympathetic character? Who will upstage whom? Their relationship is rooted in deep friendship to be affected by such concerns.

"If you're sincere toward acting," said Cervantes, "upstaging will be the least of your concerns. As soon as you try to upstage each other, then you're not being true to your material. What I try to work hard at is rapport, because the lack of it will show onstage."

"Behn and I have had the chance to work several times before, and we've always had such great rapport," said Juan, as Cervantes yelled "liar, liar, liar" in mock protest. "After being together almost every day, we've now developed 'sisterly' love." And that kind of love will likely sustain their friendship through thick and thin.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

New 'Portrait' is not gender-bender

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

ANTON Juan and Behn Cervantes may be playing the leads in the former's new production of "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," but don't expect any cross-dressing or gender-bender sleight of hand. It would be thematically difficult, considering that, except for the slight deviation in sex, the play is faithful to the original material every step of the way. It's still set in the fast fading world of pre-World War II Manila, where tradition and social structure still dictate behavior and expectations.

What Juan and Cervantes will be playing are brothers who also happen to be repressed closet queens, homosexuals masquerading as lonely bachelors forbidden to indulge in or voice out their true desires. Cervantes plays Candido (née Candida), the stricter, seemingly stronger older brother, while Juan essays the young, ostensibly weaker Pablito (née Paula) who turns out to have more courage in taking matters in hand.

PINKY Marquez, in Carmen Miranda mode, leads the cast of supporting characters.

Cervantes acknowledges that "because there are two older brothers, instead of two older sisters" in a very conservative society means "there will be so much tension" in the drama. However, the gender switch is not a "gimmick" out to draw in the new generation of theater viewers by putting a new spin on a time-honored classic. Nor is it a postmodern approach to make the script keep pace with the times. The radical casting actually zeroes in on the heart of the material, at the same time exposing its deeper dramatic layers.

Floy Quintos who plays narrator Bitoy says that placing two men, instead of two women, in the center of this conflict was a perfect fit. The drama and emotional weight flowed from the lines just naturally. There was no difficult adjustment "or circumlocution in logic."

ANTON Juan and Marco Sison in the seduction scene

Cervantes, a well-known theater activist and a consummate director-actor-playwright, emphasizes with his usual passion, "Two men doing [this play] is not the focus. [The casting] speaks to the original intention of (author National Artist) Nick Joaquin and makes it stronger."

Lament

"Portrait" has been widely regarded as a dramatic respectful lament of the lost glories of a bygone era. Inside the confines of an old, decaying Spanish-style house, the two spinsters in Joaquin's opus (now portrayed by men) futilely fight off the encroachment of a very materialistic, irreverent American culture, even as they use the remaining days of their wasted lives to take care of their sick, embittered father. The outside world would have forgotten them were it not for the latter's final legacy, a masterpiece of a painting that just might command a fortune.

It is on that painting, much spoken, envied and argued about but never seen in the play, that Juan, who is directing, focuses on. The portrait shows the last two survivors of a burning Troy escaping from the devastation: Aeneas carrying his father Anchises on his back. Aeneas would later found a greater and grander city, Rome.

"The script is how the young generation should carry their patrimony—the elders and their values—on their back and bring them into the present," Juan explains passionately. "The opposition is between values and materialism. Keeping our integrity against all the [new] evils, and resurrecting it into doing things better with one spirit. It's like taking a country with all its ruptures, and turning that into a strong Filipino spirit.

"Aeneas carries his father on his back. When Behn and I thought of this concept together—the lead roles being played by sons, and not by daughters—we felt that it would be more evocative of the portrait.

"These days, we have lost that sense of carrying our fathers and teachers on our backs. We don't value them. When you're 60 or 65, they're gone, or just a number. This is the whole point of the play."

"It's a sense of duty, a piety toward our parentage and our mentors, and what they have taught you. To carry that as an artist and a person. I directed [the pioneering theater giants giants] Rolando (Tinio), Behn (Cervantes), Tony (Mabesa), people who are older than me and whom I wish to carry into the present. Sometimes, during rehearsals, when Behn tells me something, I stop and listen."

Gap

Cervantes bridges the generation gap himself by acting with his fellow students who have over time learned to work with the elevated standards of "a force of nature," as Quintos, an ex-pupil, describes him.

"I come from an older scene of Manila theater," Cervantes says candidly. "Where we got paid for nothing and worked like dogs! All these years, we were hoping and working for professional theater. Now, it's coming about. But some performers tend to be lax about it. They don't learn their lines on time and don't arrive on time. I think [my students and cast] know what will happen if [they] do that!"

To do a good job at it, Cervantes says a director must have "a certain sensitivity to and an inkling or experience of old Philippine society. The society of the old upper-middle class. What we call the old school. You don't see that old vintage anymore in Manila, but you may still have it in Bulacan or Laguna."

No less than Nick Joaquin thinks that Juan and Cervantes are more than up to the task. The gender switch has his blessings. His letter to Juan says that the new production "... pleases the heart. I... fully trust in the new approach... The cast is not only formidable, but exciting, as you describe it, it is rather destined."

The other cast member's appearing in this new "Portrait" also include Marco Sison and Raymond Bagatsing alternating as the sexy opportunist Tony Javier, Loly Mara and Amiel Leonardia as the more pragmatic Marasigan siblings Pepang and Manolo, opera artist Fides Cuyugan-Asensio as Doña Loleng, and Pinky Marquez as the jaded Americanophile Elsa Montes.

"Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" will run at the Tanghalang Tolentino, CCP until March 10. Call 551-7930

ART TART

Of Mother Rita, 'Mother' Ishma and mama mia!

IT'S no secret to my *amigas* in the culturati scene that second to the Blessed Virgin, the other Mother I never had was the Great Mother Rita. Ever since I watched her make *dila* Vic Vargas' *pusod* in "Pagdating sa Dulo" I knew I was hooked on her—and on the idea of licking the navels of VV-types. Except for that other VV—Vivian Velez.

I also dreamed that, like Mother, one day, every time my name would be written, or spoken, in the company of other names, it would have an "and" before it and prefixed with "Ms," *id est* "And Ms Art Tart."

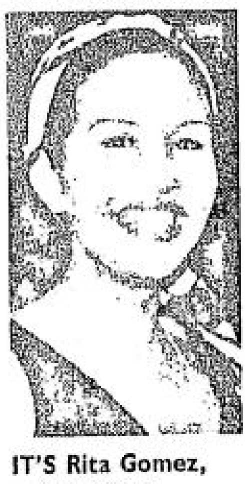
Anyway, I rarely find myself in the vicinity of the UP—can't stand the sight of too many fishballs and students wearing those horrible friendship bands, puka necklaces and Mojos—but since an *amiga* told me about the Ishmael Bernal retrospective at the Film Center, I got my sagging rump quickly to the nearest Ikot jeep terminal and came prepared with my *mala*-Rita long face, long nose and long neck.

Tanduay always comes in handy for the marathon *holahan* about the true essence of "Gamitin Mo Ako," which was supposed to open the week-long festival, and which stars Mother with the then-delicious Al Tantay.

"It was beautiful, *dah-leng*," I almost saw myself air-kissing Anton Juan in some after-party in some smoky joint somewhere in Teacher's Village. I also came with a hoarse voice, of course, like Mother's. Mine I got from too much menthol cigarettes.

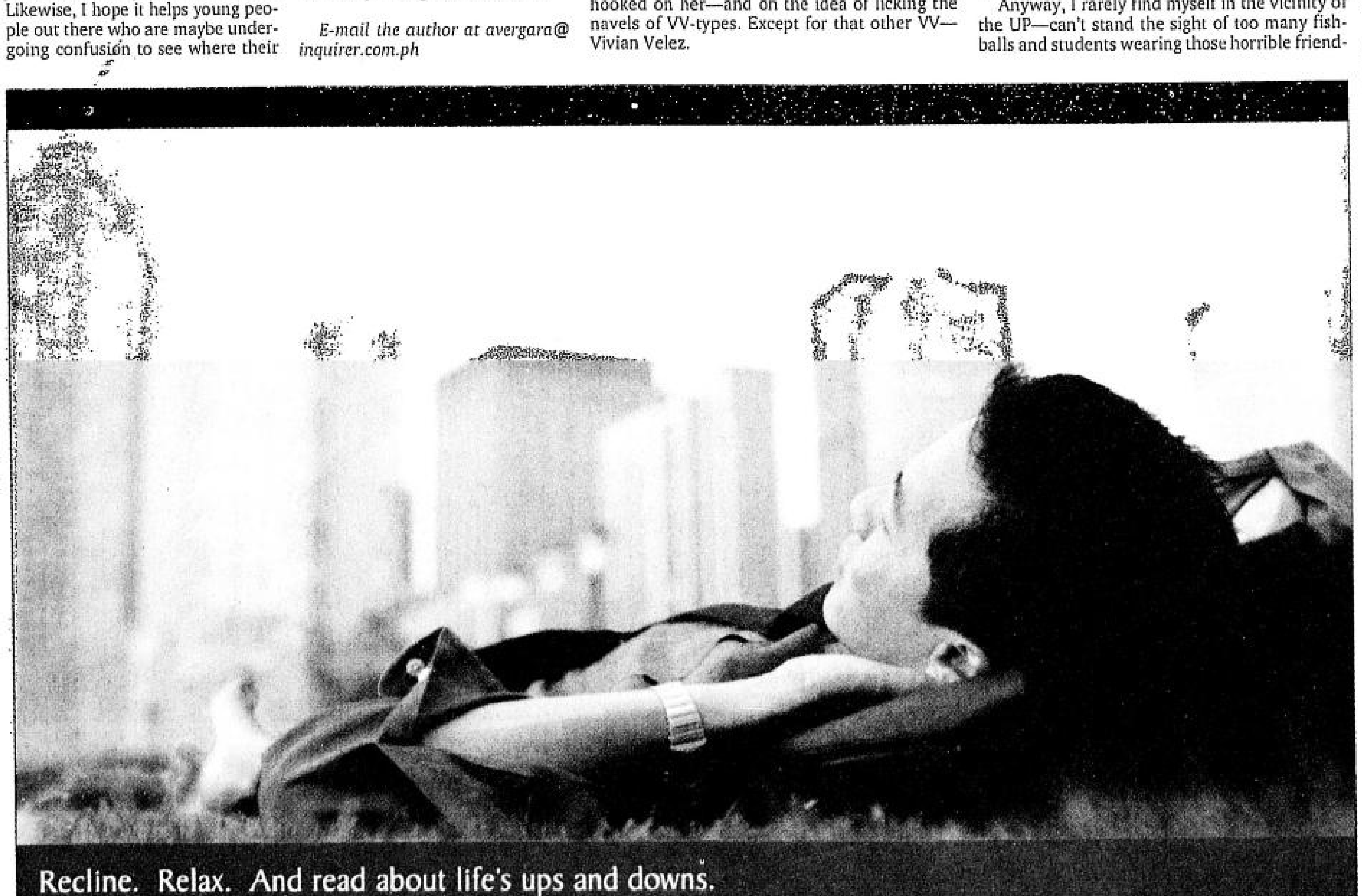
But, alas! In true Bernal fashion, like "Bitter Coffee to Remember...," some *idiotas* in the UP Film Center failed to produce the 35-mm film roll. Apparently, its producer, Via Hoffmann, was in town and too busy defending her brother Joey Marquez from the power of Alma Moreno's magic *kamison* that she couldn't find the reels of "Gamitin."

Flashes of Mother and Vic V. in self-induced freeze frame in the last shot of "Pagdating" went by Art Tart when I decided to climb the stairs to the Film Center office to ask for an explanation. But even the culturati style diva, the other Moreno, Virginia, who was at the Film Center office then, could not explain to Art Tart why "Working Girls" would be playing instead. If this were a Joey Gosiengiao movie, this would have been "The Secrets of Virginia M."



IT'S Rita Gomez, not Art Tart, *dah-leng*.

Art Tart almost threw a fit! But I knew what Mother would have done in such a situation and so I kept my cool. Good thing I brought the long neck and extra-long Mark menthols, which I then decided to share with the security guard down the lobby who tried to console me. He was no Vic Vargas, but you know the magic of Tanduay. A few minutes after, in true Mother Rita fashion, I was running along the fields of UP, her "Salawahan" dialogue swirling around my head, "*nagsasayaw sa ulan na walang suot kundi ngiti*."



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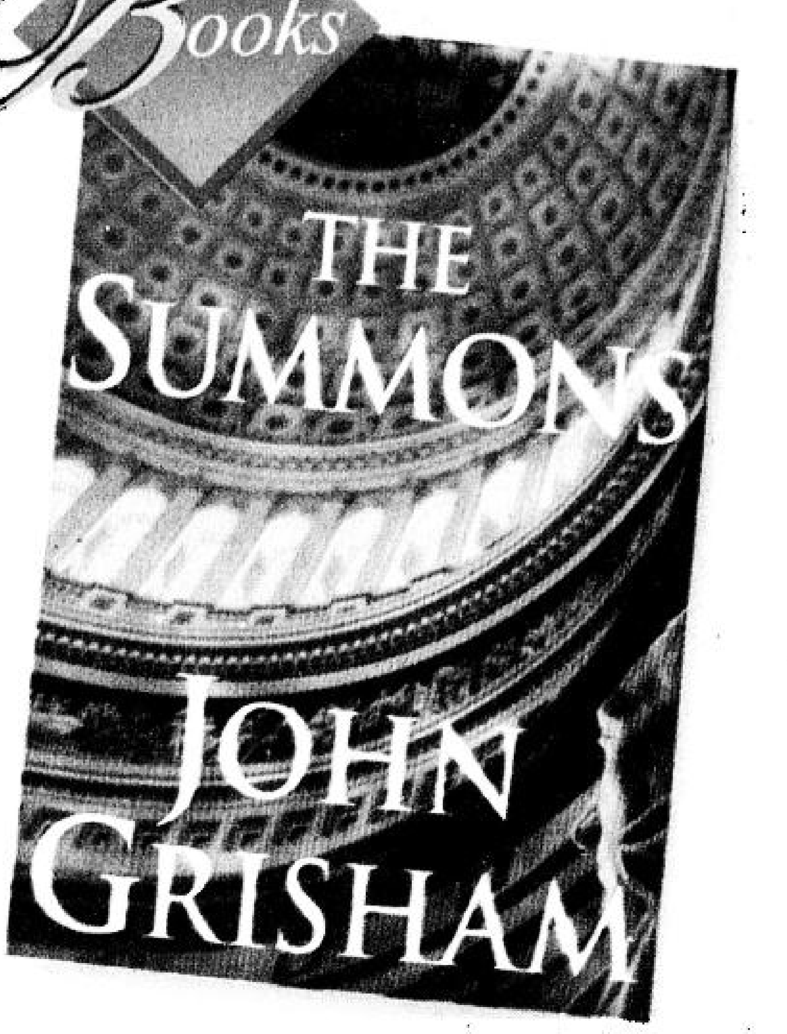
BUSINESS INQUIRER

John Grisham's back to his old tricks with 'The Summons'



The Summons
By John Grisham
Doubleday, New York, 2002, 341 pages

By Ruel S. de Vera

REVIEW

NO one has had a more impressive track record in writing about big, bad lawyers and their courtroom antics than John Grisham. The closest thing to a sure thing when it comes to legal thrillers, Grisham has successfully argued his case to the reading public time and again with dynamic titles like "The Firm" and "The Pelican Brief." He has sold millions of books and has become a Hollywood cottage industry, with six big movie adaptations and more on the way. Why, he's even managed to do some *pro bono* lawyering on his own in his spare time.

> After a literary sidetrip, the best-selling legal author is back with a more conventional legal thriller—which is both good and bad news

But after his first few books, Grisham seemed to have retreated into a predictable, safe style. Books such as "The Rainmaker" and "The Chamber" already felt a bit strained, a bit familiar. They just did not have the energy of his first books. Grisham responded, rebounding first by injecting a bit of eccentricity and freshness to legal wrangling with "The Partner" all the way to "The Brethren." He appeared successful in his intent to meld a more literary sensibility and new twists to his familiar style. Then, he went all out and gave us the superbly written, semi-autobiographical "A Painted House."

Now, Grisham returns to his old haunts with "The Summons." His 14th book should be welcomed because no one writes the legal thriller like Grisham, plus it would be interesting to see just how his recent literary forays had changed his style. Unfortunately, the forays have not changed his style enough, it seems.

"The Summons" revolves around Virginia law professor Ray Atlee, a responsible, even-handed protagonist who returns to Clanton, Mississippi because his father, the Chancellor Reuben V. Atlee, otherwise known as The Judge, is dying. Ray, who does not get along with his father, has been summoned, along with his black sheep addict brother Forrest, to discuss the division of The Judge's estate. When Ray finally drags himself back to Clanton, he discovers his father dead, seemingly from a self-inflicted morphine overdose—and with $3 million in cash hidden in The Judge's dark, cluttered study.

Thinking fast, Ray hides the money for a variety of reasons, not all of them altruistic, and then "The Summons" gets going. Ray must now find out where the money came from and do it discreetly, for The Judge was a much-admired and apparently ethically strict man. But even as he sets about doing this, Ray must not only hide the cash, but also protect himself because someone is after the money as well. In the meantime, he must also work to help Forrest, who is constantly on the verge of going back on drugs.

While the book's first few chapters are not only invigorating but also addictive, "The Summons" begins to falter halfway through the book. Grisham, as ever, is a breezy, enjoyable writer, so the pages just slip by, like the old trees lining the roads in the Delta. He remains a master of the page-turner. Add to that the fact that his descriptions are now more muscular, more evocative, obviously the fruit of his recent literary diversions.

But the s plot just cannot supply the promise provided by its concept. A house burns, a plane sabotaged, but Ray—with "The Summons"—just moves along. Ray is well-fleshed out, complete with personal antagonists and hobbies. But he is just too composed, too erudite, ultimately too well put together to summon in the reader fear and dread for his safety. Somehow, no matter what happens, the reader will just know Ray will survive and figure it all out. The other characters, everyone from The Judge to down-home lawyer Harry Rex to Forrest—are stereotypes. Well-designed stereotypes, but still one-dimensional. Plus, there haven't been so many lawyers infesting his pages since, well, "The Rainmaker."

It is virtually impossible for readers not to deduce by themselves who Ray's shadowy pursuer is long before the book's 39th chapter. Grisham tries to wrap up his conspiracy with a rather hokey ending that not only leaves a few holes but whose very denouement will leave the reader scratching his head. And what is that last paragraph all about, any way?

It is hard not to be disappointed with the regressive genes that have shown up in "The Summons." Grisham had been experimenting previous to this book and he had proved rather good at it. While diverting for a few hours and still an above average read, "The Summons" is too by-the-numbers, too easy to be the next big book from an author as talented as John Grisham. Once again, readers will have to wait for his next breakthrough. In the meantime, case dismissed.

Available in hardcover from National Bookstore and PowerBooks

Dominican master to visit the Philippines

AZPIROZ

THE REV. Fr. Carlos Alfonso Azpiroz Costa, O.P., canon and civil lawyer, writer and the Master of the Order of Preachers, or the Dominicans, one of the Church's most influential and important orders, will visit the Philippines from Feb. 27 to March 5.

The visit will be the master's first in the country and is just one stop in a tour to visit all Dominican provinces worldwide. He will be accompanied by Rev. Fr. Quirico Pedregosa, O.P., assistant to the master for the Asia-Pacific and a former prior provincial of the Philippine Dominican Province.

Sometimes known as the "hounds of God," the Dominicans are members of the religious order founded by St. Dominic de Guzman. Combining scholarship and evangelization, they have distinguished themselves for 800 years as forceful preachers, educators, scholars, theologians, writers, reformers and missionaries.

Father Azpiroz presides over a vast order of 6,000 Dominicans spread out in some 80 countries. As direct successor to St. Dominic, he is also the spiritual head of the Dominican family, which includes 40,000 Dominican nuns and sisters, and more than 100,000 lay Dominicans and members of Dominican secular institutes and confraternities.

Father Azpiroz, 44, became the 86th master of the Order when he was elected on July 14, 2001 during the Dominican General Chapter in Providence, New York.

Father Azpiroz will fly in from Kaoshiung on Feb. 27. On Feb. 28, he will meet with the Dominican brethren at the Sto. Domingo Convent at Sto. Domingo Church, QC.

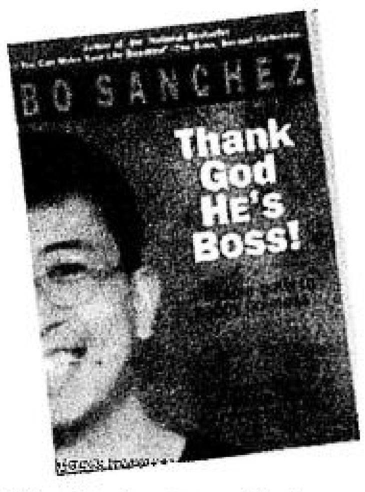
As the master of the Order, Father Azpiroz is also the grand chancellor of the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, the oldest university in Asia, which will receive him on March 1.

On March 2, the Dominican family of the Philippines will gather at the UST Central Seminary to welcome the Master of the Order.

Father Azpiroz will also make courtesy calls on the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. He will depart for India in the afternoon of March 5.

Father Azpiroz is from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Before his election, he served as procurator general, the Order's second highest office. Trained as a civil and church lawyer, he studied law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina and holds a doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Religious author is pick for Lent



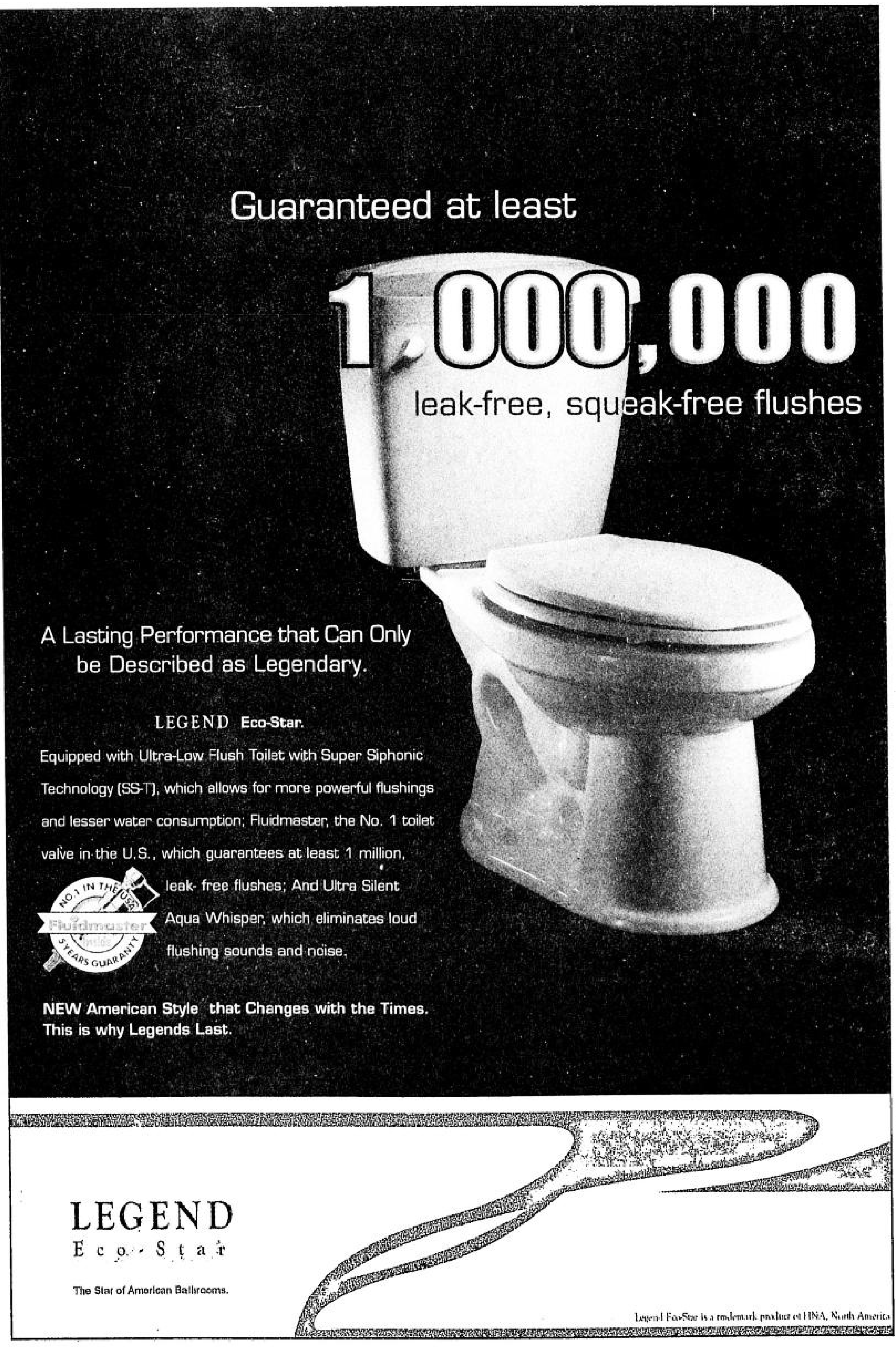
THIS Lent, National Bookstore features Bo Sanchez as its author of the month. Sanchez is the founder of Anawim, a special ministry for the poor that provides a home for the abandoned elderly and children. He began inspiring others with his preaching at the tender age of 13 and has not stopped ever since. He is the founder of Shepherd's Voice Publications, a media ministry that publishes the most widely read Catholic literature in the Philippines. He also established the Light of Jesus Training Center where he shares his mission, imparting the word of God through seminars and workshops all over the country. Sanchez also began the Light of Jesus Community, an organization of lay Catholics from which was born the Light of Jesus Counseling Center composed of dynamic volunteers who provide counseling services.

His latest book, "Simplify and Live the Good Life," is a good source for those who wish to learn how to create wealth in every area of their lives as well as a guide for the journey toward one's personal expressions of simple happiness. Other books Sanchez has written include "Thank God He's Boss!," a humorous book that is sure to capture readers with its depth, warmth and wisdom, and help them understand that God is just around the corner waiting; and "You Can Make Your Life Beautiful," geared toward helping readers discover the simple path to happiness. "Embraced," a handy little book of spiritual truths, holds tremendous power to serve as a spiritual guide who want to live and grow in the Lord.

FVR at FEU anniversary

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos will be the guest lecturer at the Far Eastern University diamond jubilee anniversary on Feb. 27, 3 p.m., at the FEU Auditorium.

In the same program, the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation will formally turn over its donation of books to the FEU represented by Lourdes Reyes-Montinola and Edilberto de Jesus, FEU chair and president, respectively.



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CARLOS Ramirez Faria, Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Ramirez, Mary Prieto and Marylou P. Lovina

MILA Drilon, wife of Senate President Franklin Drilon, and Bing Pimentel, wife of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, beam as they launch the Senate Spouses Foundation's new fund-raising event.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Venezuelan mission's new home, new real estate mover and charitable Senate spouses

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

VENEZUELAN Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** and **Carlos Ramirez Faria** recently inaugurated the elegant new premises of the embassy at the Multinational Bancorporation Center on Ayala Avenue. The new offices have been decorated by **Marylou Lovina**. Spacious and well laid out, the offices include a library for researchers and stunning views of the Makati skyline.

* * *

Metrobank chair **George Ty** is undeniably proud of the bank's new venture in real estate in the reclamation area. His development project is beside **Henry Sy**'s, who will develop the business and retail center, and **Tan Yu**'s Marina. Cocktails for valued clients and friends were held in the open air with buffet tables under tents offering Japanese, Chinese and Filipino delicacies spread out around a fountain. Eventually, the development will include a museum hopefully housing Ty's world-class collection of antique Chinese landscape paintings.

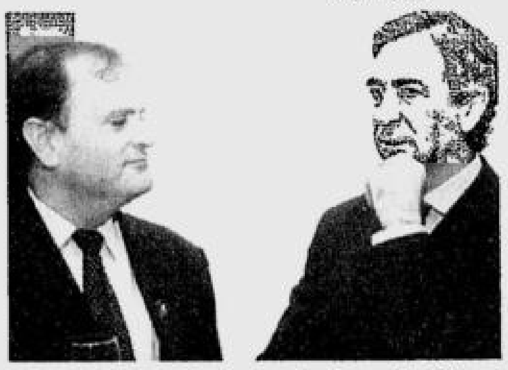
* * *

Philamlife's tony Tower Club was the scene of the launch of the newest project of the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc.—a fund-raising event, Karera Para sa Puso, in coordination with the Manila Jockey Club. **Johnny Litton** emceed. The foundation hopes to build homes for the elderly sick and poor in Cagayan de Oro City and eventually in major cities and municipalities in the country.

JOEY Cuisia, Johnny Litton and Ms Jaworski

MYRNA Borromeo and Rep. Cynthia Villar

BRAZILIAN chargé d'affaires Carlos Carvalho



PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao da Silva and Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja

Edsa I at Enchanted Kingdom

ENCHANTED Kingdom joins the nation in celebration of People Power I as the theme park opens its doors to guests today, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., with fireworks display at 9 p.m.

Park visitors can take advantage of Enchanted Kingdom's newly introduced "Wizard Money Promo." The promo gives parkgoers a chance to fully enjoy their Wizard Money gift certificates.

To avail, simply pay P200 for entrance and get back the same value in Wizard Money gift certificates that can be used to purchase food, drinks, souvenir items, game stubs or tokens inside the park or purchase admission tickets. And more perks as promo patrons are treated to unlimited rides on the Grand Carousel plus a 5 percent discount on food and souvenir purchases using the Wizard Money. The Wizard Money promo will run until March 30.

Enchanted Kingdom is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, and until 10 p.m. (with fireworks display at 9 p.m.) on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Call 830-2111.

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INFOTECH
Editor Leo Magno

Alleged 'hostile' takeover stirs local Internet firm

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

AN ALLEGED "hostile" takeover has taken place over at Interdotnet Philippines Inc., a Makati-based local Internet service provider (ISP), a source told INQ7.net on Tuesday.

The source who declined to reveal his identity said that at least 20 employees have voluntarily resigned as a result of the "reorganization" that took place in the company Monday.

The source said that the takeover was allegedly intended to replace Fernando Contreras Jr. as head of Interdotnet Philippines. As a result, several employees who supported the executive resigned.

News of the reorganization was announced on Monday, the source said.

The source added that an Interdotnet chief financial officer, who flew in on Sunday, informed the employees on Monday afternoon about the new management, which effectively replaced Contreras as Interdotnet Philippines country manager.

The foreign executive's visit was allegedly meant to review business of Interdotnet Philippines, the source noted.

On Monday morning, Contreras reportedly received a call and was later informed that he was being replaced by Ting Yupangco, former chief of local ISP I-NeXT Internet, the source said.

Yupangco was head of I-NeXT Internet when it bought into Iphil Communications (the company which Contreras belonged to) to form PSINet Philippines. Yupangco later "resigned" from I-NeXT for "health reasons," the source said.

"Contreras was forced to resign for reasons unknown to him," the source observed.

Another source familiar with the situation told INQ7.net, however, that the takeover had something to do with "politicking" within the company.

The source said that the new management is mostly part of the I-NeXT Internet firm, and are allegedly relatives.

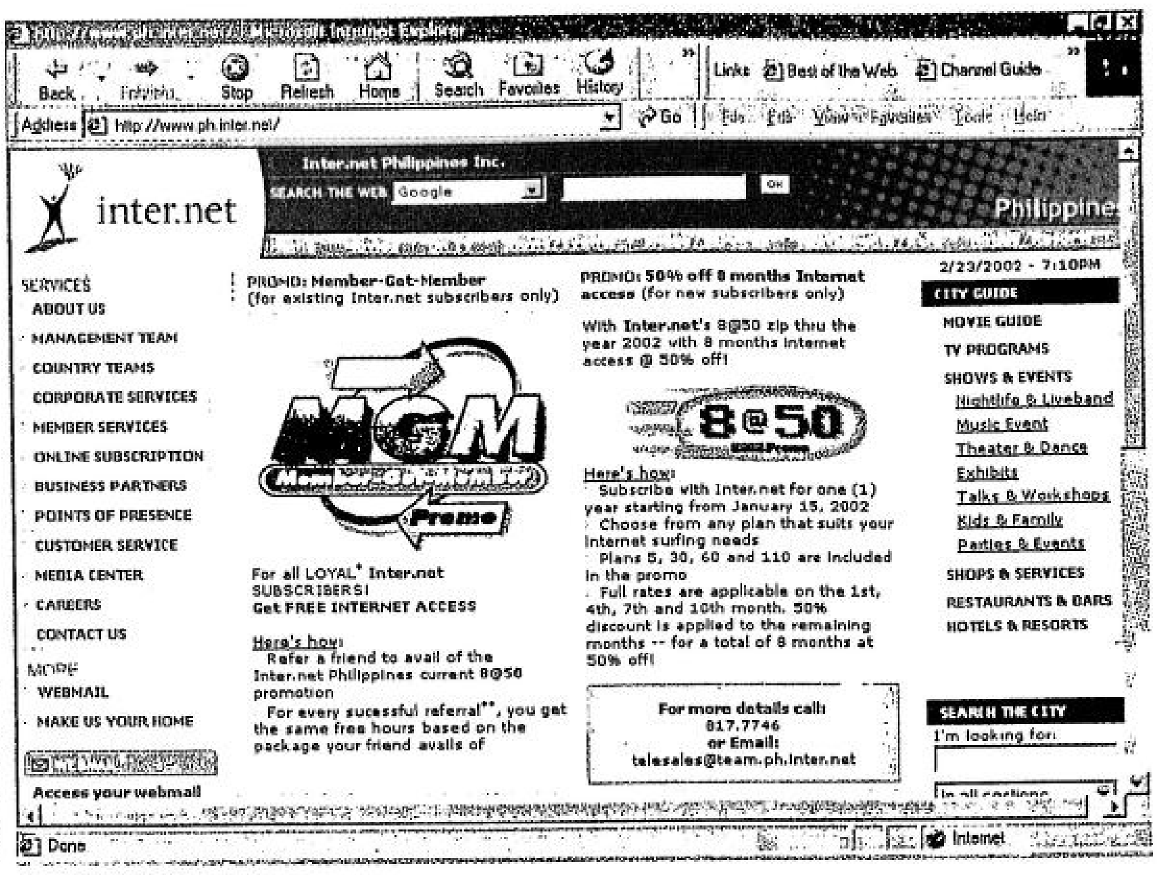
Under the new management, changes in the company's security were effected, the source said.

Apart from replacing the old security personnel at Interdotnet's office in Makati, the source said that all e-mail, telephone lines, Internet connection of all employees who supported Contreras were severed.

Several rooms housing the equipment and people were also padlocked, and security cameras were installed, he said.

"I think differences in principles between Contreras and the Interdotnet headquarters had something to do with his ouster," the source said.

Interdotnet was created when PSINet, a global Internet service provider, consolidated all its Internet service provider businesses in April 2000. From July 1, 2000 until March 1, 2001, Interdotnet had been self-funded with no reliance on then-owner PSINet. PSINet later filed for Chapter 11, a term which indicates that the company has filed for bankruptcy.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EMBATTLED?

Manpower cut not part of IT companies' plans

By Joel D. Pinaroc
INQ7.net

TWO of the biggest information technology (IT) companies in the Philippines claim to remain unscathed by the prevailing global economic crisis, reporting "healthy" financial growth and at the same time avoiding the reduction of their respective local manpower.

Unlike other multinational IT companies, the Philippine representative offices of hardware and software giant IBM and enterprise software specialist SAP did not hand out pink slips to employees, following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States which pulled the global economy into a downward spin.

According to officials of IBM Philippines and SAP Philippines, although the two companies have been affected by the slowdown, other measures were taken to ensure that the dreaded manpower cut would not be implemented.

"There are other ways to cut costs. On our side, we have implemented discretionary spending and the reduction of travel initiatives for IBM employees," said Victor Silvino, IBM Software Group Philippines country manager. "Of course, we were also affected by the slowdown, just like everybody else," the executive said, noting that "the needed adjustments were taken by IBM."

Silvino said one of the more direct effects of the slowdown is that IBM had to "modify" sales targets, as the slowdown would inevitably affect IT spending.

He said that an economic recovery might have already started as early as late last year. Recent reports said the recovery, at least in the United States, is expected to start at the second half of 2002.

Silvino further noted that Philippine companies should be able to know into which areas they should pour their investments if they want to tackle the rippling effect of the economic slowdown.

"Despite sluggish economic conditions, troubling international affairs and the ongoing dotcom carnage, many enterprise companies have not budged from the belief that the best way to improve operational efficiencies is to cut costs and solidify relationships with key customers and suppliers and to innovate with new business processes and Internet-based technologies," said Silvino.

For SAP Philippines' part, the company did not cut its manpower, mostly Filipino consultants, but instead signed up recently with two more companies to systems integrate and sell SAP products in the enterprise space.

"The effects of the slowdown was also felt by SAP, but this is not enough for us to cut our manpower," said Marivic Gamo, marketing and alliance manager of SAP Philippines.

Gamo added that SAP did not modify sales targets and sales quotas, although a slowdown of spending for local companies is expected.

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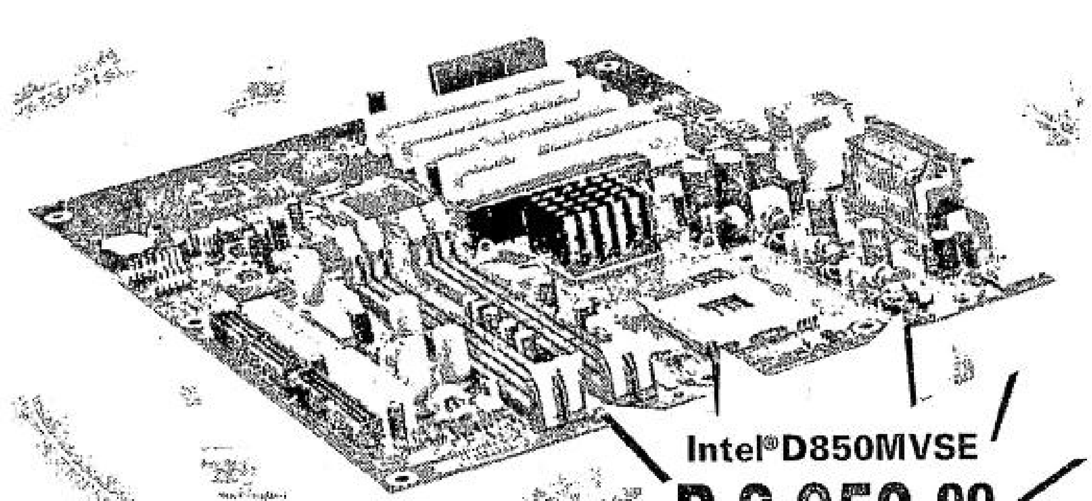

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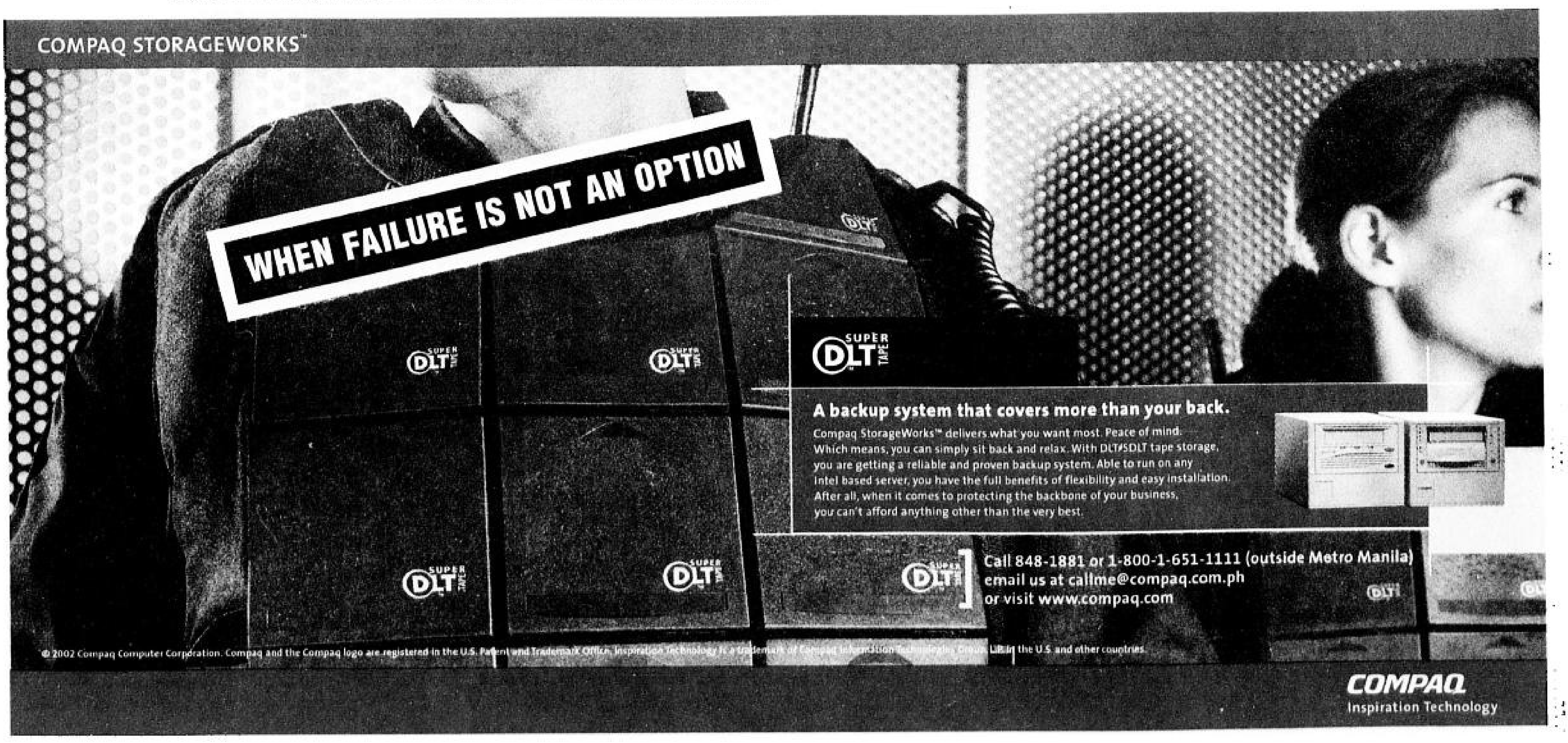
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Cellular phones have no health effects on users, says report

NO health effects on users

MOBILE phone manufacturers have welcomed the release of the European Commission's latest findings on the possible health effects brought about by using mobile phones.

According to the report, the perceived health effects have no basis to justify either a change in approach on electromagnetic fields and health or a revision of European exposure limits.

Michael Milligan, secretary general of the Mobile Manufacturers Forum (MMF), said the importance of this report to policymakers and the public lies in the similarity of its findings to previous scientific reviews of this kind.

"Expert groups have now met and considered all the facts on numerous occasions and yet again mobile phones have been given the all clear," Milligan said.

The committee was asked to update its opinion on the possible health effects of mobile phone use and to specifically consider the long-term exposure to low non-thermal levels.

It was also asked to review whether or not the European safety limit for exposure to mobile phone emissions as set by the International Commission on Non-Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), is still valid considering the latest scientific knowledge.

The European Commission's Scientific Committee found that the additional information which has become available on carcinogenic and other non-thermal effects of radio frequency and microwave radiation frequencies in the last years does not justify a revision of exposure limits set by the commission on the basis of the conclusions of the 1998 opinion of the Steering Scientific Committee.

In particular, in humans, no evidence of carcinogenicity in either children or adults has resulted from epidemiological studies.

"When you step back from this issue and look at the scientific evidence as several expert groups have now done, it is remarkable to see the same fundamental conclusion being reached—that is—there is no substantiated scientific evidence of any adverse health effects from the use of mobile phones or from living near their base stations," Milligan said.

"This opinion is consistent with the views adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Food and Drug Administration, the UK and French expert groups, as well as agencies and authorities from the Singaporean, German and Spanish governments.

"While confident in the safety of our products, manufacturers are adopting a responsible approach to this issue. We support further independent research that is addressing the WHO Research Agenda and we are supporting such research in cooperation with national and international health agencies. We are also developing a range of information products that seek to answer any consumer questions on this issue," he said.

The MMF is an international association of radio equipment manufacturers whose members include Alcatel, Ericsson, Mitsubishi Electric, Motorola, Nokia, Panasonic, Philips, Siemens and Sony.

The MMF was established to support further independent scientific research and to provide authoritative information to governments, standard-setting bodies and consumers on mobile communications and health issues.

The European Union's advice is available on the following Web address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph/programmes/pollution/ph_fields_index.html

Local university extends education via the Net

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

THE PHILIPPINE Women's University (PWU) will soon offer some of its post-graduate courses online as part of its effort to modernize its distance education program, school officials said on Wednesday.

The 82-year-old university is working with computer firm Unisys Philippines on building of a Web-based system on which most of its courseware will be available, said Cecilia Medel, acting vice president for information technology and project director of the PWU-Unisys e-learning partnership.

Medel said that the school will initially offer a Masters of Arts in Education, and will gradually progress to other post-graduate courses as more courseware becomes available.

Once the Web-based system is in place on June, she said that PWU will start extending its online courses to 26 of its learning centers nationwide, and several "franchisees" of PWU in various provinces in the country in the next few years.

The project rollout will take five years, said Medel. In the first year, the project aims to benefit at least 50,000 post-graduate students.

"Our IT department has been oriented toward the development of online learning for the past two years," the school official said.

PWU began training its staff in 1994 on distance education. In August 2000, 70 of its faculty members underwent training in online courseware development, Medel added.

"Our orientation in the next few years will be on IT," Medel said, noting that PWU is also a beneficiary of the Cisco Networking Academy Program, a networking course developed by Cisco.

In a separate interview, Unisys Director Tony Tissington said that the company will help PWU extend its courses beyond the Philippines.

He said that Unisys is working with universities and schools in Australia and even in New South Wales.

"This is the first big initiative of Unisys in education in the Philippines," Tissington said. "We wanted to do this for some time."

Unisys and PWU signed a memorandum of agreement on Wednesday, sealing both institutions' commitment to the e-learning project. PWU has agreed to provide and develop the courseware for the project, while Unisys will supply the technology for the delivery and management of the online content.

Tissington declined to comment on Unisys' projected investment in the project, but indicated that investments will be made "whenever it makes sense."

HP reveals 'enhanced' software for enterprise

COMPANIES in the Philippines that have benefited from using enterprise analytic software could profit more with even faster software that further cuts down decision time and minimizes errors caused by inaccurate or untimely information.

Informatica Corporation, the world's leading provider of enterprise analytic software, has recently released a faster version of its PowerCenter5 data integration platform, which could help local companies make better and well-timed business decisions.

Enterprise analytic software is a tool that helps a company integrate and analyze large amounts of data from different sources.

Compared to the earlier version, the latest version of PowerCenter5 performed complex data mappings and transformations five times faster, according to recent tests.

Using Hewlett-Packard's Superdome servers, third-party performance tests held in December 2001 also showed Informatica PowerCenter's scalability as data volumes increase.

Results demonstrated that complex data mappings for 22 decision-support queries run against a data set consisting of over 875 million rows were completed in less than 6 minutes whereas the earlier version took 29 minutes.

9 firms unveil 'Blu-ray Disc' to replace DVD

TOKYO—Nine major international technology firms recently unveiled the "Blu-ray Disc," a new digital optical disc format that will eventually replace the popular DVD.

"It is a truly remarkable format, marking a new era," corporate senior executive vice president of Japan's Sony Corp. Shizuo Takashino said after posing with a model of the disc.

The new invention is 12 centimeters in diameter, the same size as compact discs (CDs) and digital versatile discs (DVDs).

But the Blu-ray will use a blue laser to burn codes on to the disc instead of red—multiplying the maximum data capacity of a single density, one-sided disc by five, to 27 gigabytes.

A DVD can only store 4.7 gigabytes of information.

The new format is capable of recording over two hours of digital high definition video and 13 hours of standard television broadcasting, the firms said.

The current DVD can record just 133 minutes of regular TV broadcasts.

The companies also plan a double density disc with a 50-gigabyte capacity that will increase the capacity by twice as much again.

Aside from Sony, other technology giants involved in the venture include South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and France's Thomson Multimedia.

Licensing to other industry groups to develop products for the technology will begin in the next few months.

But the firms said they would head in their own directions in developing products for the format, and none were prepared to name a date for when their versions would hit the store shelves.

The executive corporate engineering adviser to Pioneer Corp, Masao Sugimoto, said the format would be able to take advantage of the spread of high-definition television, which had reached some 2.3 million Japanese households by the end of 2001.

"(The Blu-ray) is of great significance in terms of the further development of the electronics industry and the high definition broadcasting sector," Sugimoto said.

However the companies, wary of alienating DVD fans, said the new technological products could be made to be compatible with DVDs.

"It is possible," Sugimoto said. "These discs are based on a major base of infrastructure (to support DVDs) and the spread of high-definition television may not be all that sudden. We cannot simply disregard that."

But he said each company would decide individually whether to make the Blu-ray compatible with DVDs.

"This is a technological format and product planning is up to each company," he said.

Some 25.5 million DVD players are expected to be in consumers' hands by March 2002, according to Sony's estimates, a significant market penetration since the gadgets only hit the market in 1996.

Jan Oosterveld, representing Dutch partner Royal Philips Electronics from the Netherlands, said the companies wanted to avoid the struggle over standards that plagued DVDs.

"You all know the struggle we had to come to one format in DVD. We wanted to avoid that right away," he said.

The other companies cooperating on the technology are Japan's Hitachi Ltd., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., and Sharp Corp. as well as South Korea's LG Electronics Inc.

AFP

Adding drawings during Powerpoint presentation

By Jerry Liao

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5. To erase your drawings, press E.
6. To bring back your mouse pointer and continue with your presentation, press ESC.

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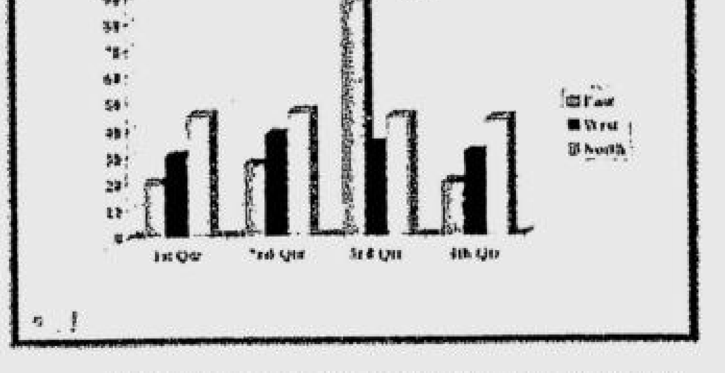

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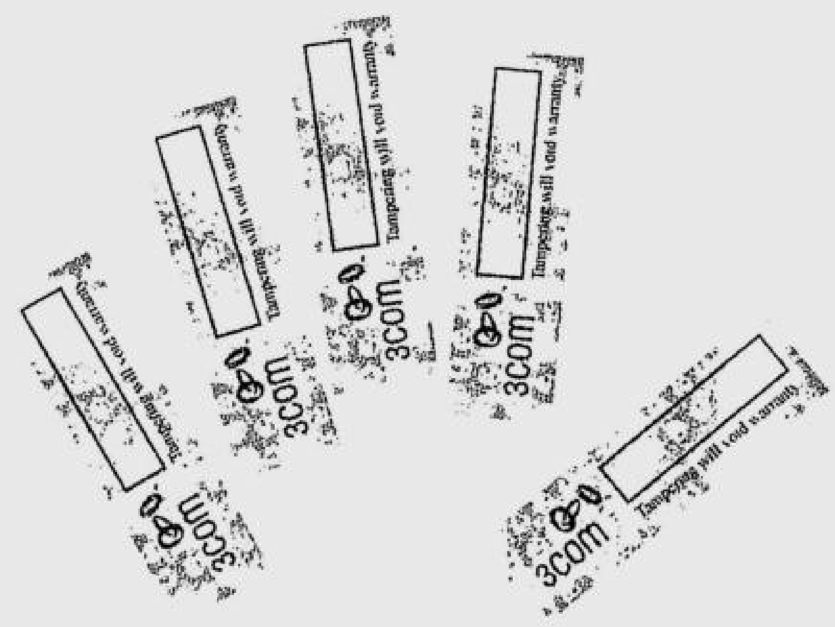

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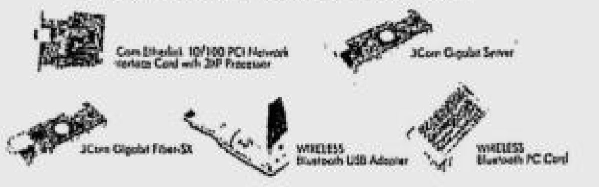

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Philippine companies urged to support anti-piracy campaign

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE BUSINESS Software Alliance, an organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal online world, has urged corporations in the Philippines to support moves to promote the use of licensed software in the Philippines.

These moves would help bring down the rate of software piracy in the Philippines, which has been dropping over the past five years, but still high at 61 percent.

This means that at least six out of 10 computers use pirated software.

The Philippines ranks behind Vietnam, which has the highest piracy rate of 97 percent, followed by China (94 percent), Indonesia (89 percent), Pakistan (83 percent), Thailand (79 percent) and Malaysia with 66 percent.

"This means that six out of 10 computers are installed with pirated software which is still too high and equivalent to hundreds of millions of dollars worth of losses for software companies each year," says BSA vice president Ronald Chua.

BSA has urged companies in the Philippines to check their software licenses as it is all set to implement several activities geared toward promoting the use of licensed software in the country.

BSA has implemented the Assistance in Software Auditing Program last year aimed at promoting proper software management.

About 260 companies applied for the Certificate of Clean Bill of Software Health from BSA, indicating that the company uses licensed software. The certificate guarantees a one-year grace period against BSA raids.

"BSA would like to stress that good licensing practice is important in every organization. A regular software audit helps them to track the level of software utilization in their company and protects them from breaking the copyright law. CEOs and company officials should be aware of the legal implications and the large fines for using pirated software," Chua said.

Its members include AccTrak21, Adobe, Apple Computer, Autodesk, Bentley Systems, Borland, CNC Software/Mastercam, Compaq, Dell, Entrust, IBM, Intel, Intuit, Macromedia, Microsoft, Network Associates, Novell, Sybase, Symantec and Unigraphics Solutions.

In the Philippines, BSA is a member of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council International Advisory Board. It is also associated with the Philippine Software Association, the Philippine Internet Service Organization, the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Government Internal Auditors.

BSA has adopted a three-pronged approach to promote the use of legal software in the Philippines. Aside from convincing companies to use legal software, it is also working with enforcement agencies and educational institutions.

"The greatest threat to the software developers here is the multi-copying of legal software. This means that companies buy a few sets of legal software and copy them indiscriminately across the organization," Chua said.

Chua explained that companies in the Philippines and other countries have the wrong notion that they already own the software once they buy the program, thus, entitling them to make multiple copies.

Science agency to push Linux locally

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

THE DEPARTMENT of Science and Technology through an attached agency, the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (Asti), plans to push Linux and other open source software as an alternative to commercially sold software this year.

Open source software refers to software whose licensing agreements permit use and redistribution without royalties or fees. An example is Linux, an operating system heavily used in Internet and network server environments.

Peter Banzon, officer in charge of Asti's Computer Software Division, said that the agency is currently developing "easy-to-install" Linux-based applications for desktop computers and servers. The agency will distribute the Linux-based applications to other agencies under the science and technology department, and eventually to other government agencies, as part of its "near-term goal."

Banzon said that Asti has requested additional funding of half a million pesos from the DOST to hire more developers.

"We admit that it will be difficult to push Linux-based applications in the desktop market in the Philippines. But we want to provide alternative software that is free," Banzon said. He cited the "steep" cost of commercially sold software such as Microsoft's Windows operating system as one of the reasons behind the growth of open source computing in developing countries.

Banzon said that Asti was prompted to push the use of open source software because the agency itself has barely enough resources to buy new licensed software. For 2002, he said that Asti has no budget for the procurement of new licensed software and has been spending an average of P1 million to P2 million on "specialized" software for the past two years.

Banzon said that Asti hopes to be the showcase of open source software use in government in the Philippines. "We aim to be the lead agency," he added.

For the past eight years, Asti has run its e-mail, web, file and ftp server on a computer running on an Intel Pentium microprocessor and Linux.

'Low-cost' alternative to VRIS project pushed

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) needs to spend only P350 million, instead of the proposed P6.5 billion, to cleanse the voters' list in the country, Chair Alfredo Benipayo said.

Benipayo said that the "low-cost" alternative to the controversial voters' registration information system (VRIS) project, involves consolidating all voters' list all over the country into one powerful server running an intelligent database system.

The VRIS project, which would be implemented in five years, is also designed to clean up the voters' database which contains the names of 35 million registered voters in the country.

But the VRIS will only involve the registration of voters, a procedure which requires more time, Benipayo said. The VRIS project will issue special voter's card to 35 million voters in the country, which Benipayo said, is an impossible feat.

"The current law also does not require voters to have an ID," Benipayo added. He even argued that compelling people to undergo the procedures stated in the VRIS project at this time would pose bigger problems for the Comelec.

Theoretically, the VRIS aims to catch people attempting to register more than once through a fingerprint imprinted on the voter's ID. If the project pushes through, the Comelec will be collecting fingerprints of all voters in one giant database.

In an earlier public consultation on the status of the agency's long-delayed program to modernize elections, National Movement for Free Elections executive director Telibert Laoc said that asking voters to simply dip their fingers in indelible ink, is the "cheapest" and most effective way to purge elections of flying voters.

Meanwhile, Benipayo vowed to oppose implementation of the VRIS, even as four other commissioners reportedly expressed support for the project.

"Let the four of (the commissioners) enter into a contract with the (consortium). In my case, I'm against the project because I have an obligation to the Filipinos that contracts should be legal," Benipayo said in a television interview on Monday.

A Quezon City court upheld last week a contract awarded to a consortium led by Photokina Marketing Corp., and has directed the Comelec to "resume negotiations to formalize execution of the contract" with the consortium.

The Photokina-led consortium allegedly won the bid in October 2000.

Benipayo, however, insisted that the P6.5-million VRIS project awarded to the consortium is "illegal" because it would force the government to cough up more money.

In an earlier interview, Benipayo said that the Comelec has only a budget of P1.2 billion for the VRIS project.

"No single judge has the final say on the matter. We plan to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court," Benipayo added.

In a separate TV interview, Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco argued that the VRIS project would prove "advantageous" to the government because it would clean up the voters' list. But with only P1.2 billion available, she admitted that the Comelec could only implement the project in a few "problematic" areas in the country.

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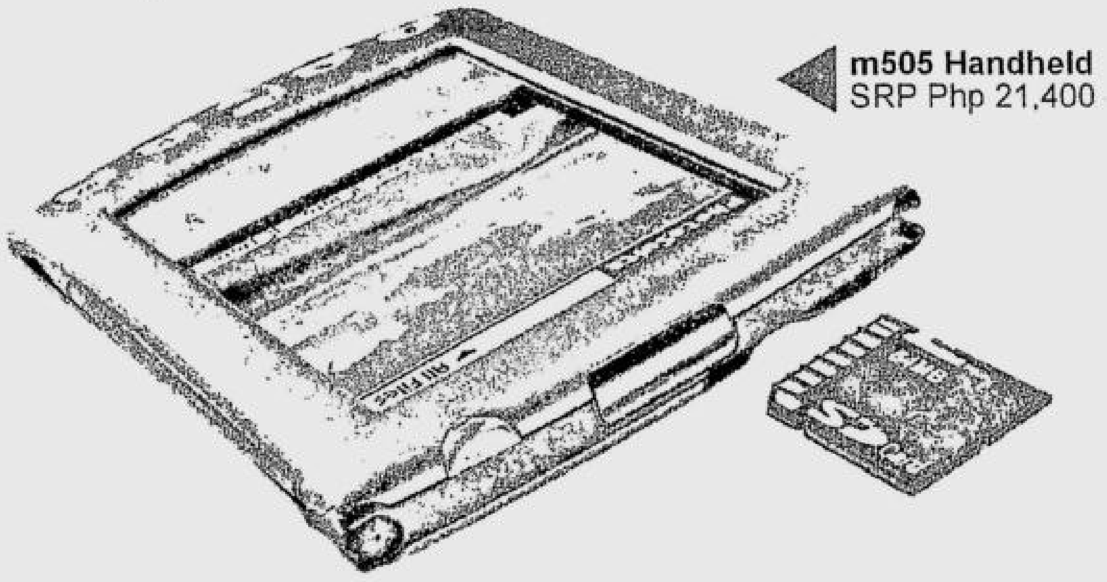

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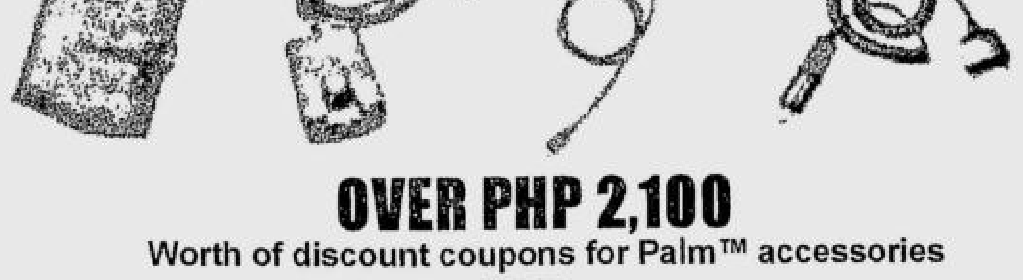

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